This notebook contains important data for a project conducted over the course of many years. If found, please contact:

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2001 Walter D Koenig

Melanerpes formicivorus

Birds roosting in Nests (summary)

Gate (exp Nest)

3 April	♂2773 for sure	+ ♀3180 + ♀3182	WDK + Jen Wang
4 April	♂?	+ ♀3182.	
5 April	♂2773	+ ♀3182 (we think)	

Sch Hill West (exp Nest)

10 April	♂3113 for sure	(alone)	WDK
12 April	♂3113 "	" (alone)	

Note that this was already (apparently) a 2nd set of eggs! See my notes

MacRoberts (exp nest)

13 April	♂2973 for sure	(alone)	Me WDK
14 April	♂2973 "	" (")	

1800 (exp nest)

8 April	♂2898	+ 2 unid ♀♀	Jen Wang
9 April	♂2898 + ♂.?	+ ♀.?	

Lonesome Dove (exp nest)

12 April ♂3199 by himself (Jen)

Los Arbolitas (exp nest)

17 April	♂2095 by himself		WDK
18 April	♂2095 + ♂3017 together		

Stromberg (exp nest)

22 April	♂2762 by himself	(WDK)
23 April	♂2762 " "	(WDK)

2001 Walter D Koenig

Melanerpes formicivorus

Nest Roosters

Gate (renest)

[Jen +/- Lance watched twice, but apparently generated nothing definitive]

27 April ♂2773 + [♀3182 I think; see my notes] WDK + Lance

25 May ♂2773 (fairly sure) by himself (WDK)

LARB2 (LARB2)

Los Arbolitas² (renest)

1 May ♂3217 by himself (I think) (WDK)

4 May ♂3217 by himself (but possibly ♂3216; see notes)

MacRoberts (Renest)

5 May ♂2973 by himself for sure. [On 3 May I missed him, but he came at the same time] WDK

24 May ♂2973 (Joey)

Plaque (1st nest)

6 May ♂2056 + ♂3244, the latter a helper (WDK)

7 May ♂2428 (!) + ♂3244; not ♂2056 (WDK)

School Hill West (3rd nest!)

exp nest if ~~I do it~~!

5 May ♂3113 (Lance)

8 May ♂3113 by himself for sure (WDK)

LARB2 (Renest)

18 May ♂3216 by himself for sure (WDK)

28 May ♂3216 " " " " (") (No sign of ♂3217 this time!)

LARB (Renest)

18 May ♂2095 by himself for sure (Joey) (failed)

2001 Walter D Koenig

Melanerpes formicivorus

Nest Roosters

Plague (renest) [see below]

22 May ♂2428 by himself (WDK)
4 June ♂2056 + ♂3245 (a helper) together (WDK)
(I think)

1800 (Renest)

15 May ♂2680 (Jen)
4 June ♂2680 (Jen)

Lonesome Dove (Renest)

22 May ♂3198 (Jen)
3 June ♂3198 (Jen)

School Hill West (Renest)

Plague (renest)

12 June ♂2056 by himself for sure [WDK]
6 June ♂3247 [Jen]

Stromberg (renest)

19 June ♂2913 by himself [WDK]

LARS (nest that we will get data from)

27 June ♂2095 by himself for sure.

2001
Jennifer Wang

HNHR

Roosting Watches

M. formicivorus

Plaque

6/6, 1930-2000 : (#3247), ♂: black/m enters.

Lonesome Dove

4/12, 1830-1910, ♂ #3199
5/22, 1910-1940, ♂ #3198
6/3, 1915-1950, ♂ #3198

1800

4/8, 1815-1900, (#2898), ♂: m/ enters.
2 more enter. ♀: white and ♀: white/m

4/9, 1830-1900, 1 ♀, 2 ♂ enter.
one ♂ with m/ (#2898).
4/11, 1830-1900, 2 ♂ enter. one ♂ with m/ (#2898).

5/15, 1830-1920, ♂: black/m (#2680)
6/4, 1930-2000,
♂: dk blue/m (#2680)

July 14,
7/14 → 2680 + 3498 (3rd nest)

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9:00 pm
Wed., 5/23

Walt,

Lower Haystack birds didn't come to hole or even the granary - need to set up a blind there permanently?

Dipsy - only a pain there. Also didn't go to hole while I watched.

Same w/ Fanny Arnold, even when watched from next slope. 2 new ♂'s there - maybe they abandoned the first nest?

? ♂: m/white-H. blue / orange/black

♂: H. blue-white/m / H. blue-black/dk. green

2684

UA2 - same story. Maybe put the Arnold I blind there - I did the 3rd feeding watch today.

Roosting: 1800 - # 2680 on 5/15. black/m ♂
LODO - # 3198, on 5/22. H. blue-orange/orange-white ♂

Nothing urgent is left for the weekend except 3rd feeding watch at Gate. Could Lance pick this up?

- Jen

7/14/01

Walt, field list update:

All 4 birds at LARB seen on 7/14: 3051, 2761, 2095, and 3017.
♂ #2095 may have lost his orange band on right leg - don't see it anymore.

as of 7/14, Keep Out has a new ♀: black-red/red-black m/black-red
#3236

and ~~[illegible]~~
an unlisted juvie appeared there too:

#3471 m/ black-white/black-white

The other birds seen there today were 3074, 2647, 2684, and 3252.

I'll check in again tomorrow or Mon. morning.

- Jen

P.S. 1800 roosting: #2680 and #3498 entered tonight.

Joey Roosting 2007

MacRoberts

24 May 2973

LARB

9 July 2095

SHW

3 June 3113 (80% sure)

6 June 3113 (95% sure)

		M /ORANGE		
3223	M	L BLUE-YELLOW/L BLUE-DGREEN L BLUE-DGREEN/M	H	03/19/2001
3479	U	M /BLACK -WHITE MAUVE -YELLOW/MAUVE	H	06/01/2001
3480	U	RED -WHT(N)/M RED -WHT(N)/D BLUE	H	06/01/2001
3481	U	D BLUE /ORANGE M /D BLUE	H	06/01/2001
3482	U	D BLUE-YEL(N)/ORANGE D BLUE-YEL(N)/M	H	06/01/2001

2002 Walter D Koenig

Melanerpes formicivorus

Roosting Summary — HNMR

Knoll (1st nest - Exp)

12 April ♀3401 (a helper) roosted [? Probably not - bands close to 2749]
13 April ♂2749 roosted, for sure (WDK)
14 April ♂2749 " " " (")

MPHF (1st nest - Exp)

16 April ♂1962 roosted for sure (WDK)
17 April ♂1962 roosted " " (")

Bianca North (1st nest Exp)

23 April Zilch. Bird stayed in hole
24 April Not ♂3213 (or ♂NOBA → ♂3651)
25 April ♂NOBA caught in non-nest ambush (am)

MacRoberts (1st nest exp)

2 May ♂2999 for sure (WDK)
3 May ♂2973 for sure (! WDK)
5 May ♂2973 ~~for sure~~ I think, may have been ♂2999; could have been either (WDK)

Stromberg (1st nest)

7 May ♂2913 my best guess, followed by ♂2802. See notes.
Could even have been ♂2762...

2002 Walter D Koenig

Melanerpes formicivorus

Roosting Summary

Keep Out (1st nest)

8 May At least 3 birds. ♂2647 for sure. Also (I think), ♂2684 and one of the helper ♂♂. Quite a party in there.

Knoll (2nd nest)

10 May ♂2563 definitely; possibly also ♂2750 or 2749.
11 May ♂2563 or someone else; can't be sure which.
14 May ♂2563 or ♂2749; can't be sure which.

MPHF (2nd nest)

17 May ♂3027 for sure. (WDK)
22 May ♂3027 for sure (")

Plague (1st nest)

24 May ♂2056 for sure (WDK)
26 May ♂2428 almost for sure (could have been ♂3525)
No sign of ♂2056! (WDK)

MacRoberts (2nd nest) (see also p. 3)

29 May ♂2973 + 2nd bird, not sure who but not ♂2999 (see notes)
31 May ♂2973 by himself for sure (WDK)
6 June ♂2999 (tel-DB) + 2nd bird (unknown) (Joey)

2002 - Walter D Koenig

Melanerpes formicivorus

Roosting Summary

Kup Out (2nd nest)

29 May ♂2647 + ♂H3252 + ♂H3594 (Joey)
↳ (almost indistinguishable from ♂H3073)

MacRoberts (2nd renest) (cont)

8 June ♂3327, ♂2973, + (prob? ♂2999); 1 left.
2 stayed (both breeders?) (Joey)

Plaque 2nd (renest)

17 June ♂3245 (a helper) definitely. Also (probably) a 2nd bird, who was either a ♂? or ♀3635 (a 24 bird from Cabin). (WDK)

2003
2004

Walter D Koenig

Melanerpes formicivorus

Roosting Summary

WHR

1500 (1st nest)

10 April ♂3225 for sure.

MacRoberts (1st nest)

17 April ♂3715 (helper); ♂3327 (helper) + 3rd unknown bird.
18 April ♂3715 ("); ♂3327 (") - (probably, at least by inference) ♂2973. I know that ♂2999 did not roost in the nest; hence, by elimination, ♂2973 presumably did.

1500 (renest)

30 May ♂3225 for sure.

MacRoberts (renest)

15 June ♂2973 and ♂3327 (a helper) for sure.

Dipsy (renest)

24 June ♂3587 for sure.

2004

MacRoberts (2nd (re) nest)

14 June (Joey) ♂2999 for sure (!) [see Joey's notes]
15 June ♂2973 for sure.
16 June ♂2973 (indirect, but not ♂2999)

2000
2001

Walter D Koenig

Melanerpes formicivorus

Chongo

HNHR

20 April — No sign of stores or birds here.

21 July — Ditto.

2001

8 April — 1200. Stores here! There is a group here!

26 May — 1730. Watched for an hour + here from the Chongo side but saw zilch. Really zilch. Despite the fact that there are a couple of nice holes and a fair number of stored acorns remaining. But at least there's nothing really obvious going on.

28 June — We've still failed to come up with anything here, even though they have a fairly full granary and we've come by regularly and watched several times. Surely they have a nest somewhere, I fear.

19 July — 1530. At long last I found a hole, over in the sycamore, where I bet they nested. It's not obvious how to get to it, but it's an obvious hole and I have no idea how I missed it. A Cooper's Hawk flew by and a nice bird - with a dark eye - hence an old fledgling I believe - zipped into it for a minute. An ambush would seem warranted, although, being in a dead limb, I fear I'll need a ladder.

2002 Wildlife Viewing
2003
2004

Melanerpes formicivorus

Chongo HWER

23 April 945. Lots of stores here and at least 2 birds flying around. Also a nice new hole in the granary, but no sign of a nest yet.

1 June Still stores, and birds in the canyon, but no sign of a nest anywhere.

23 August There are still acorns stored here! Time to get these guys.

2003

25 April Definitely stores and birds here. Found a likely-looking new hole in the granary. But noone in anything.

5 June 1330. Peds! In a new hole in the granary! Came back, opened the hole, & banded them — ready to fledge they were. Hole tagged #5810. Acorns? You bet.

7 July 430. Ambushed the nest hole. empty.

(5801)

2004

3 May 1100. Put the door back on last year's nest hole (tag ~~#5801~~). (It had fallen off at some point over the winter.). No stored acorns, by the way.

21 May Went to put the door back again, only to discover a Flicker nest w/ babies! Guess I'll have to put it back on later. (Tag 5810)

23 May Finally put the hole out back together. Still no sign of anyone up here, though

2000 Walter D Koenig

Melanerpes formicivorus

Buckeye HNHR

20 April 930. Plenty of stores, even though the granary continues to disintegrate. Flushed 3 birds from the trees over to the SW of the granary; otherwise noone in any holes.

940. Noone over at Buckeye Annex.

21 July Still plenty of stores.

1 December Ambushed here this morning (lower hole in the Valley Oak up the hill) nabbing 5 birds: ♂3065, ♀2826, j♂3242, and 2 NOBAs, one an adult ♂ and the other a scruffy juv molting to a ♂. Sheesh!

So what's up? Here's the scoop: ♂3065 moved here back in late 1999 after having been caught at Chongo (where he was roosting but not necessarily a resident). There were a couple of censuses, but nothing all that successful or extensive. Then, last spring, Greg only saw ♂3065 and ♀1968 at the nest. But Teresa immediately saw the ♂NOBA on 26 August. So, here's my guess: the A♂NOBA (3325) is a brother or relative of ♂3065 and joined the group this last summer. About that time or in early fall they had a 2nd nest, from which j♂3326 fledged. ♀1968 is presumably still there - but perhaps I'll wait and talk to Lauryn to find out for sure...?

Turns out Lauryn hasn't seen ♀1968 either so I don't really know what's up. However, for the time being, I'll assume she's still here

2001
2002

Walter D Koenig

Melanerpes formicivorus

Buckeye

HNHP

30 April Bird in new hole up in the same Valley Oak they've been nesting in.

1 May 1530. Opened the hole (now tagged #1309): 6 eggs, 1-2 days incubated. Measured them: ① 23.9 × 18.8 ② 24.0 × 18.9 ③ 24.4 × 18.6 ④ 24.1 × 18.5 ⑤ 23.7 × 18.8 ⑥ 24.2 × 18.5. Also set an ambush, since there's still apparently a NOBA (♀?) here.

12 May 1645. 4 babies, ~5 do + 1 unhatched egg. Band ~ 27 May. Ambusher ready.

31 July 0500. Ambushed the nest hole, getting 5 birds, including (yes!) the ♂ NOBA!

16 October Ambushed this morning, getting 4 birds in the old (low) nest hole, but no NOBA (there is apparently still 1 more ♂ NOBA here).

One of the birds I got was ♂ 2828, a 1997 nestling NSAB!!

21 Nov 0700. Another ambush up at the nest tree yielded 5 birds (the low hole they didn't use this year), including ♂ 3433, ♀ 3432, ♂ 3627, plus 2 (count them! 2) NOBA ♂♂, both AHY, and thus presumably from that missed nest in 2000 unless ♂ 3065 isn't there any more. In any case, hopefully this is the lot of them!

2002

23 April Plenty of stores here.

6 May Still stores, but noone in a hole

2002
2003
2004

Walter D Koenig

Melanerpes formicivorus

Buckeye — HNHR

8 May — 1510. Bird in a hole in the (gulp) granary. We're talking the 40' ladder, I fear.

13 May — 1035. Bird in same hole. Assuming eggs were fairly new on the 8th, this puts hatching on or about 18 May and banding ~9 June

23 May — 900. Opened the new hole in the granary: 4 babies, ~10 do. Band ~ 2 June! Lots of stores here.

29 May — 930. Banded the 4 kids (#3699-3702). All in good shape

23 August — Still stores - a fair number, in fact.

2003

25 April — 1200. Birds & stores here. Noone in a hole, but birds hanging out by the granary.

26 May — 1345. Lots of stores, but still no sign of a nest.

18 Sept — 820. Still stores here, presumably from last year.

2004

5 March — 1440. A few acorns left, but literally only a handful. Checked holes.

3 May — 1140. Still a very few acorns, but noone in any holes.

10 May — 1130 Bird in old hole up the site canyon (tag #1309) 1305. Checked hole: empty but in good shape.

14 May — 1500. Bird in hole 1309 again: still empty.

22 May — 900. Bird in hole 1309: 5 fresh eggs. ① 23.6×18.4 ② 23.8×18.8 ③ 24.0×19.0 ④ 24.0×17.9 ⑤ 23.7×18.5

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Melanerpes formicivorus

Buckeye Annex HNHR

6 May 1030. Found a nice hole in a blue oak 100m or so beyond the traditional tree (where woone ever is anymore) that has feathers caught on the bark so is clearly active. Three birds (all NOBAs, best I could tell) were in the vicinity. Almost surely a good bet for a nest; not sure I should still call it Buckeye Annex, but I probably will.

2001
2002

Walter D Koenig

Melanerpes formicivorus

Plague Annex HOHR

19 July 1500. 2 fledglings (at least one unbanded) in the nice new hole I discovered up here a month ago or so. It occurs to me: are these the Cabin birds?? Time to ambush.

20 July 0500. Ambushed, nabbing 5 birds: a ♀NOBA, ♂3018 (a 1998 CARB bird!), 2 recent fledglings, plus one bird like I'm fairly confident (but not absolutely positive) is an older juvenile from an earlier spring nest, best I could tell. She was just beginning her crown molt to a ♀.

So: Plague Annex did exist (and still does), and apparently had 2 successful nests, one fledging recently. I think, but can't be positive, I got everyone here, at least.

2002

23 April 820. No one in the hole.

23 May Bird flushed from the other (unopened) hole!
1030. Opened the hole (now tagged #5561): 5 eggs, incubated! ① 27.2 × 21.0 ② 26.6 × 19.8 ③ 27.9 × 20.9 ④ 27.7 × 20.7 ⑤ 27.7 × 20.5 (calipers checked). Group here after all!

30 May 1200. 3 babies, a good 4-5 do, + 2 unhatched eggs (1 looks undeveloped, 1 developed). Band ~ 15 June.

7 June 1600. Still 3 kids looking fine.

10 June 1430. Banded the 3 kids as #3718-3720.

2003 Walter D Koenig

Melanerpes formicivorus

Plague Annex HNHR

25 April 1140. Bird in (new) hole is the old Plague next tree.
1300. Opened hole: 2 fresh eggs. Numbered and measured: ① 29.0 × 20.4 ② 30.3 × 22.0 (!) Huge!

30 April 1345. Nest empty! Dock scrape. Michelle/Lindsay watched here last weekend and saw nothing; apparently it had failed by then.

6 May 1515. The limb with the earlier failed nest has fallen! Right at the hole, although I doubt my cut had much to do with it. Guess they wouldn't have made it there anyway!

16 May 1300. In last year's hole (#5561): 2 kids, ~2 do, + 1 unhatched and undeveloped egg (30.3 × 20.6 mm!) Band ~ 4 June.

2 June 1700. Banded & bled the 2 kids.

2001
2002
2003

Walter D Koenig

Melanerpes formicivorus

Colorado

HWMR

8 December 0700 Ambushed the nice hole I found in a Blue Oak over by the watertanks (see Map on back). This is my first real lead on this group which I totally spaced out last spring even though they clearly existed. No doubt they nested here at least once.

In any case, I nailed 4 birds: 3 NOBA FYs (♀2♀♀, 1♂) + ♀3523, a kid from Plague. So! Unless I'm wrong and one of those ♀♀ was an adult, the ♂ is still probably unbanded here, but most likely I have everyone else, since the ♂♂ are Plague birds.

2002

30 March 530. Ambushed the roost hole up over from the watertanks, nailing 1 bird (♀3636), one of the FYs I caught in December.

17 June ♀3635 seen roosting (or at least entering the nest) at Plague.

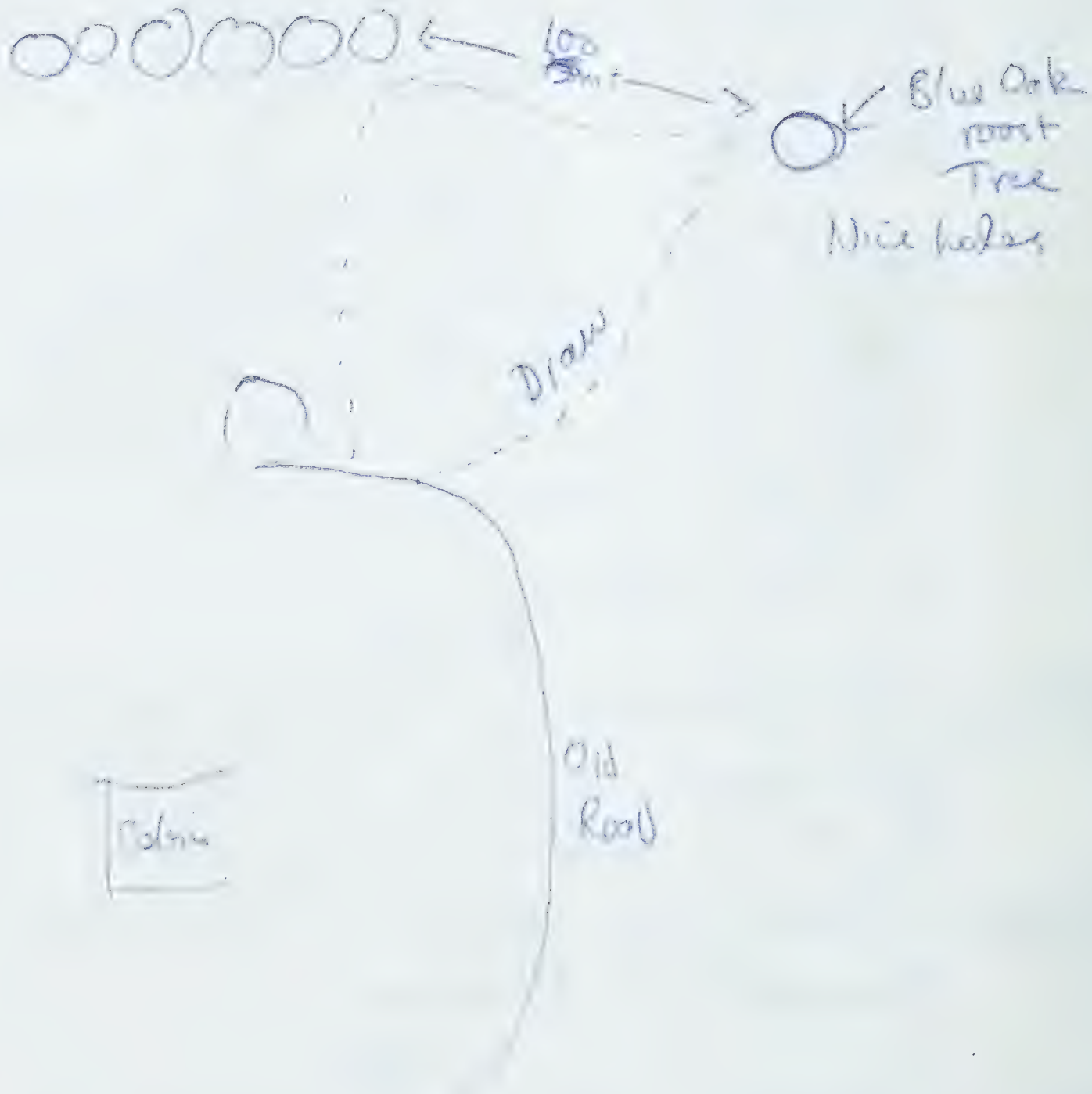
2003

30 April 1400. Bird in hole up canyon over from Watertanks: 4 eggs, 2-3 dd. ① 24.4 × 18.7 ② 24.8 × 18.3 ③ 24.7 × 18.7 ④ 25.4 × 19.0. Hatch ~ 8 May.

This is actually Upper Barn!

11 May 1600. 2 kids, ~4 dd. Band ~ 28 May. Hole taped #100. [This is Upper Barn!]

27 May Meanwhile, it looks like the 3 kids we banded yesterday at "Plague" are really


100 Sm
Blue Oak root Tree
Nice holes
Draw
Old Root
Column

2003 Walter D Koenig
2004

Melanerpes formicivorus

Calvin

(27 May) Calvin's! I'm setting an ambush tonight and we'll see who we get. HNHB

2004

3 May 1030. Bird in hole up here (used by Upper Barn last year). Checked it in good shape but empty. (Cavity tag #100)

21 May 1300. Bird in hole (tag #100): 4 freshly eggs! Wonder who this is? ① 23.9 × 18.7 ② 23.4 × 17.8 ③ 24.2 × 19.5 ④ 25.2 × 19.0

30 May 1230. After Justyn reported some feathers sticking out of the hole here I came and investigated. The hole did indeed have the remains of a bird: a ♂, with Mauve/1142-19663 on one leg - presumably ~~[illegible]~~ - a helper at Plaque. He was well picked over by the ants, who totally infested this tree. Beneath him was 1 egg, so I guess they never hatched.

3525

If ever a bird may have been overcome by ants (while roosting?) this would be the place! Still need to know who the ♀ is here.

2002
2003

Walter D Koenig

1

Melanerpes formicivorus

Upper Barn — HWHR

23 Oct — 3 helper ♂♂ have budded from Plaque and set up over here with 2 NOBA ♀♀, 1 of which I caught this morning. I have no idea where they're storing, but a new group it is! Caught 1 ♂ (3525) and the ♀ in a (new) hole just below Plaque's old nest hole over here.

2003

1 May — Apparently, these birds are nesting over in the Cabin tree! Nothing has been going on here.

11 May — See Cabin notes. — 2 kids on 11 May.

23 May — 1000. Set to get the ♀ NOBA.
1045. Got her, then banded the 2 kids.

2000
2001

Walter D Koenig

Melanerpes formicivorus

Plaque HNHR

3 May 1100. New hole in VO by the upper barn, now #1149. 5 eggs, (1 a runt). Measured one: 25.5 x 19.0. Fresh. EHD ~12 May.

15 May 1330. 4 kids, 1-2 do. Band ~ 3 June.

2 June 1100. Banded the 4 kids. Stores: Yes.

19 July 1500. Checked nest #2 (same hole): 3 kids, large, but eyes not yet open, ~8 do. Band ~ 1 August.

31 July 1600. Banded the 3 kids: the last of the year. Plenty of stores left.

~~Plaque~~

~~3 April 1215. Checked [illegible] (#264): 4 eggs (I just peeked it so I'm not sure how old they are but they look new.)~~

2001

4 May 1330. Finally: in a new, dead limb up in the Plaque tree (now tagged #1313): 4 eggs, fresh. One a runt (!). Measured one: 25.1 x 19.9. [note: all measured on 8 May]

6 May 1930. Watched roosting. First, ?BLK/LB-BLU #3244 (a helper) went in, followed a bit later by ?M/ - #2056. When 2056 came he toussled a bit with 3244, but best I could tell both stayed for the night.

7 May 1930. Roosting tonight was something of a zoo, with ♀2702, ♂2056, ♂2428, and ♂3244 all showing up. ~~[illegible]~~ ♂3244 went in early like last night and probably stayed. After that several birds

Melanerpes formicivorus

Plaque HNHR

(7 May) came and ♂2056 would no doubt ~~would~~ have stayed but there were already birds in so he left. A bit later, [♂] Red/Lght-Dk #2428 came and entered, so the only birds I'm confident roosted in the nest were ♂2428 (a switch!) and the renegade ♂3244.

8 May 845. Took the 6 eggs (LED 6 May). Measured them all and put them in the incubator (EHD 17 May): ① 25.1 × 20.0 ② 25.1 × 19.0 ③ 25.2 × 20.0 ④ 25.5 × 19.0 ⑤ 25.7 × 19.5 ⑥ 19.1 × 15.4 (the runt).

21 May 1530. 6 eggs, fairly fresh, in the 2000 nest hole. Measured 4: ① 25.8 × 19.1 ② 25.8 × 19.4 ③ 26.6 × 19.7 ④ 27.0 × 19.2.

22 May 1945. Watched roosting: [♂] M/Lt-Dk #2428 by himself for sure.

30 May 1300. 3 hatchlings + 3 eggs, only 1 of which is developed and likely to hatch. Band ~6/20.

4 June 1945. Watched roosting: 2 birds: ① R-W(N)/M #3245 and ② Blk/Blk probably 2056 roosted, apparently together.

12 June 2000. Watched roosting: [?] LB/LB #2056 for sure.

14 June 1100. Banded the 4 chicks.

8 Dec 700. ♀3523 caught with 3 (Cabin) NOBAs in the Blue Oak over from the Watertanks.

2002 Walter D Koenig

Melanerpes formicivorus

Plaque HNHR

15 April 1000. Bird in hole over by upper barn (1149). Opened it: empty but in good shape.

23 May 1000 Bird in 1149: 6 eggs, fresh (1 a runt): ① 19.2 × 15.8 ② 23.8 × 19.8 ③ 23.9 × 18.7 ④ 24.5 × 20.0 ⑤ 24.3 × 19.5 ⑥ 23.8 × 19.5 (calipers checked). Hatch ~ 1 June. Finally!

24 May 1945. At roosting, ♂ LG/LB #2056 was in. Then ? M/DK #2428 came, but left and apparently roosted elsewhere in the tree. ♂2056 stayed and roosted.

26 May Tonight ? WN/- #2935 came + left. Near the end ? Maine/M #3525 entered, followed by ? M/LF-DK #2428; one bird then left (presumably, but not definitively, ♂3525), leaving ♂2428 for the count. No sign of ♂2056!

27 May Joey took the eggs for the 7th + last exp. for the year. We can only hope these guys will redeem!

14 June 1300. New nest! Same hole. 4 eggs, pretty fresh. Sizes: ① 24.0 × 19.8 ② 24.2 × 20.6 ③ 24.2 × 20.0 ④ 24.3 × 19.2 (Calipers checked.) EHD ~ 23 June.

17 June 2010. At roosting tonight, ♂[H] 3245 definitely roosted (!) along with (quite possibly) a 2nd bird.

Also entering at one point (and possibly

2002
2003

Walter D Koenig

Melanerpes formicivorus

Plaque HNHR

(17 June) the 2nd bird roosting) was ? M/Da (N)/Da who is ♀3635, one of the 2001 Cabin kids. The bird definitely entered the hole quite late in the game, but 1 bird subsequently left and it could have been her. This was before ♂3245 came.

23 Oct. Birds roosting in the old nest area are apparently a new group with 2 NOBA ♀♀ and 3 helper ♂♂ from Plaque. It shall be known as "Upper Barn".

2003

26 May 1530. Coming back from Chongo I noticed a bird in a tree over above the Upper Barn and finally went to investigate, finding a nice new hole with babies looking out! Woodpecker emergency! I got Joey and we went back and, after blocking the hole, opened it (tag #5807) and banded the 3 kids. They were quite old, and one refused to stay, flying out (pretty well!) as we left, even after blocking the hole for a few extra minutes. So it's even possible that we missed one, but hopefully not. Close! Plenty of stores left here.

Cabin

27 May No! Looks like this nest is (was) Cabin's!

29 May 900. Bird in new low hole in 2° tree (facing garage): 1 incubated egg! (25.3 × 19.8). Tagged 5809. Boy is this wierd - another 1-egg clutch?!!?

2003
2004

Walter D Koenig

Melanerpes formicivorus

Plague HNHR

5 June 1230. Still 1 egg. Surely it's dead and abandoned. What is going on here?

7 June 1000 Still the 1 egg, it's not "obviously" dead yet but I think it's clearly abandoned. There never seems to be anyone in the hole.

28 Sept Lots of stores still here - presumably from last year still.

9 Dec. Charles & Erin collected acorns from the granary. All seem old (i.e. from 2002) but they aren't as bad as I would have predicted. See back for summary!

2004

3 May 1000. Bird flushed from old hole in 2° tree. 5 eggs, incubated. ① 25.6 × 19.6 ② 24.7 × 19.5 ③ 23.4 × 19.0 ④ 25.6 × 20.0 ⑤ 24.3 × 19.2

10 May 1400. Checked hole. ♀2702 on nest; put her back after finding 3 babies (~3 do) + 1 unhatched egg. Band ~ 28 May.

15 May Checked nest (open house). Still 3 babies + 1 unhatched egg.

24 May 1130. Set up to catch bird(s) for stable isotopes.
1145. Got ♂2056. Rebanded him.
1245. Got ♀2702. Then banded the 3 kids.

23 August Still stored acorns here (from fall 2002!)

Acorns taken from granaries, 9 Dec. 2003

Plaque lobata		
Intact	15	50.0%
Moldy	3	10.0%
Minor damage (<1/2)	2	6.7%
Major damage (>1/2)	13	43.3%
TOTAL	30	
Plaque douglasii		
Intact	4	40.0%
Moldy	2	20.0%
Minor damage (<1/2)	0	0.0%
Major damage (>1/2)	6	60.0%
TOTAL	10	
Plaque agrifolia		
Intact	5	50.0%
Moldy	2	20.0%
Minor damage (<1/2)	0	0.0%
Major damage (>1/2)	5	50.0%
TOTAL	10	
Plaque All		
Intact	24	48.0%
Moldy	7	14.0%
Minor damage (<1/2)	2	4.0%
Major damage (>1/2)	24	48.0%
TOTAL	50	

2000
2001

Walter D Koenig

Melanerpes formicivorus

Cavity — HNHR

30 May — 1230. Checked the old low hole, where a bird flew out for the 2nd time. 1 egg (!), fresh, marked #1. Size: 24.0 × 20.5 mm.

31 May — 1030. 2 eggs. #2: 25.4 × 20.7 mm.

6 June — 915. 4 eggs. EHD ~ 13 June.

14 June — 1215. 3 babies, 1-2 do, plus 1 unhatched and apparently undeveloped egg.

3 July — Banded the 3 kids. Stores: Yes, but I can only find a few. There could be lots under the bark of the locusts, though.

2001

28 March — 1245. Opened the new hole they've been working on the the lower, large limb: empty but close.

3 April — ~~1500. Found the new hole again still empty.~~ 1215. Checked low old hole (#264): 4 eggs. I peeped it so I'm not sure how old they are.

16 April — 915. 2 babies, 2 eggs – 1 infertile, other might still hatch, I guess. ① 23.7 × 20.5 ② 24.6 × 21.3. Kids are 1-2 do. Band ~ 5 May.

5 May — 900. Banded the 2 kids as #3372-3373

11 May — 1500. Based on a tip from Jen, who watched here today, I checked the new hole (see 28 March) and found 4 fresh eggs (EHD 22 May). Measured 1: 24.6 × 20.2. Note: this may be the 1st definitive case I've had of a group starting a second nest before the 1st fledged. Note that the 2 kids are an est. 26 days old today.

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2002
2003

Melanerpes formicivorus

Cavity HNHR

(11 May) Thus, assuming the 1st egg was laid on 8 May, it was laid when the kids were 23 days old.

23 May 1200. 3 babies, ~2 to +1 unhatched egg (and undeveloped) (24.6×20.1). Band ~ 11 June. Be careful opening this hole!

11 June 1315. Banded the 2 kids in the 2nd nest. Maybe they'll go for a third...?

25 June 1830. Bird in (1st) nesthole again: 2 hatchlings + 2 unhatched eggs: ① 24.7×20.6 (developed, prob. will hatch) and ② 23.3×20.6 (undeveloped). A first! 3 nests in one season! Band ~14 July.

15 July 1630. Banded the 2 kids in the (unprecedented) 3rd successful nest here this spring!

2002

22 April 1315. Bird in new hole: 3 babies, ~2-3 to! Band 5/10. Hole tagged 5553.

10 May 1330. Banded the 3 kids (3663-3665).

14 June Checked the (1st) nesthole: zilch. No 2nd nest afterall, apparently.

2003

7 April 1110. Bird in hole.

8 April 800. Checked the (high) hole and peeped 2 others: zilch

23 April 845. Checked the hole again: still empty, even though birds have definitely been going in here.

6 May 1400. Birds in the hole again, but still empty! Eggs freezing? What's up here?

2003
2004

Walter D Koenig

Melanerpes formicivorus

Cavity HNWR

11 May 1400. Finally: 9 eggs, fresh (hole #5553). 2 ♀♀ for sure. Should hatch ~ 21 May.

13 May 1445. Checked hole with paper still 9 eggs.

27 May 1000. 5 kids, ~7 do, + 1 unhatche (but developed) egg. Band ~ 10 June

6 June 1000. Banded and bled the 5 kids. Stores: Yes.

9 Dec. See Plague notes regarding acorns collected from the granary; again, all were, I believe, from fall 2002, not last fall. See back for summary.

2004

21 April Stores pretty much gone here. Also – old door fell out – needs to be fixed!

11 May 1300. 8 incubated eggs in a new hole about 1' down from #298. Hole tagged (today) #5974 Measured 3 of the eggs (all of which were normal): ① 23.6 × 19.9 ② 23.8 × 18.2 ③ 24.0 × 19.1 New hole tagged #5974. Bring a screwdriver!

18 May 1100. 5 babies, ~3 do, + 1 unhatched egg. Band ~ 5 June.

4 June 1230. Banded the 4 kids here, starting with bird #4000!

Acorns taken from granaries, Dec. 2003

Cavity lobata		
Intact	14	51.9%
Moldy	2	7.4%
Minor damage (<1/2)	3	11.1%
Major damage (>1/2)	11	40.7%
TOTAL	27	
Cavity douglasii		
Intact	2	28.6%
Moldy	0	0.0%
Minor damage (<1/2)	2	28.6%
Major damage (>1/2)	3	42.9%
TOTAL	7	
Cavity agrifolia		
Intact	10	66.7%
Moldy	4	26.7%
Minor damage (<1/2)	3	20.0%
Major damage (>1/2)	1	6.7%
TOTAL	15	
Cavity All		
Intact	26	53.1%
Moldy	6	12.2%
Minor damage (<1/2)	8	16.3%
Major damage (>1/2)	15	30.6%
TOTAL	49	

2000
'2001

Walter D Koenig

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Melanerpes formicivorus

Knoll (hole 289) HNHR

19 April 1330. Bird in hole facing labs. Peeped it: 5 eggs, look freshish. (EHD: 28 April)
Lots of stores here still.

2 May 945. 3 babies, 4-5 do, + 1 unhatched, addled egg. Band ~ 16 May.

17 May 1230. Banded the 3 kids. Stores: yes; plenty.

19 July 1515. Checked the 2nd nest: 4 eggs, but all are infertile or at least undeveloped! Too bad. Still stores here.

31 August 1600. A whole group of birds flushed together - mate-guarding?

2001

13 April 1245. Bird in old hole (#289): 8 eggs, fresh.

25 April 1600. 4 babies + 1 egg ① 25.5 × 18.8. ~2 do Band 14 May.

14 May 830. Banded the 4 kids (#3398-3401).

1 June 1630. 2nd nest, high in the locust behind the barn (tagged 1324). 5 eggs, 1-2 days inc. EHD: 11 June. Measured 2: ① 26.7 × 19.3 ② 26.6 × 19.1

13 June 1330. Hole completely empty!!

26 June 1100. Back in the 1st hole: 6 inc. eggs. Measured 2: ① 25.7 × 19.7 and ② 25.1 × 19.0. EHD: Soon.

1 July 1245. Only 3 eggs, 1 of which is partly crushed and unlikely to hatch. Other 2 could still be OK and ~~are~~ ~~a~~ would appear to be hatching imminently.

15 July 1700. Nest is empty. Meanwhile, the birds are

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2002

Melanerpes formicivorus

Knoll HNHR

(15 July) active back at the 2nd nesthole (tag 1324), where Jen saw eggtossing. I checked it: 7 fresh eggs. Measured 2: (1) 25.3×18.9 and (2) 25.1×18.9. EHD ~ 24 July.

26 July 1500. Checked nest: empty. But there was ½ an eggshell, so I think at least one egg made it to hatching.

2002

11 Apr 07 1030. Opened a new hole in the locust on the other side of the barn: 7 freshish eggs. With 3 males here, an experiment would be in order.

12 Apr 07 1900. Watched roosting. The bird that roosted in the nest was - a helper! or - DB/M #3401! After she went in, ♂ (N)/(N) #2563 came by and no doubt would have roosted there if 3401 hadn't already been inside, but he ended up leaving.

♀3401 (H) roosted
Not see 13 Apr
Possibly ♂2749??

13 Apr 07 1915. Tonight, here's what I think happened: ♂2563 went in, stayed late. Then ♀3401 came to the hole, almost went in, but then left. Just when I thought it was all over, WN/M?? came, ♂2563 left, and the light solid?/M bird went in, apparently for the count. This would appear to be ♂2749 (yel/M). Being so close to ♀3401 I can't be absolutely positive, but I'm pretty certain it wasn't or DB/M 3401 that roosted tonight. This also opens the possibility that it was also ♂2749, not 3401, that roosted last night.

♂2749

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Knoll HNWR

14 April 1105. Tonight it was definitely ♂ year # 2749 who replaced ♂ 2563 at the final hour and roosted in the nest.

♂ 2749 roosted for sure

15 April 1115. Took the 6 eggs, 1st exp. for the year). Holetagged: 5562.
Measured eggs ① 26.3 × 19.5, ② 27.2 × 20.0 ③ 25.6 × 19.7 ④ 27.1 × 19.3 ⑤ 26.7 × 19.2 ⑥ 27.0 × 19.3.

19 April Eggs started hatching this morning. Processed all 6 as 3637-3642.

24 April 1115. Checked the hole they're now interested in (#1324 - used in 2001): 5 eggs! Could still be laying, however.

1 May 1645. Checked the hole: 8 eggs. EHD ~ 7 May

9 May 915. Checked the hole: 6 babies, 1 unhatched egg, + 1 dried up nestling → 7 hatched. I took the egg + the runt nestling, who surely was not going to make it, for tissue. (egg was fertile) and left 5 babies.

10 May 1935. Watched roosting. ♂ 2563 roosted for sure (♂ (NO)/(NO)). I'm pretty sure a 2nd bird did also, my best guess as to the bands was LP/LB, possibly ♂ 2750? Pretty iffy on him, I'm afraid. Perhaps I somehow saw his right leg and it was ♂ 2749? Heck if I know.

11 May 1935. Tonight it was either ♂ 2563 (probable) or some other bird I couldn't ID. One then left, so I can't

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Kindl HNHR

(11 May) be sure which stayed.

14 May 1940. Exactly the same thing happened tonight, except that I saw who the 2 candidates were: 82563 and 82747. Unfortunately, I can't be sure which stayed.

20 May 1300 Just to make sure we get them, we banded and bled the 5 kids here. All will probably make it. Still stores here by the way.

12 June 1215 Based on Devin's call, I climbed up and checked the old hole (tag #289), only to find 6 incubated eggs! EHD ~ 23 June) Wow!

2003

8 April 1115. Bird in (new) hole below the old one in the dead locust closer to labs.
1330. Opened hole: 7 eggs, fairly fresh. Tagged hole #5563.

11 April 1815. Took the eggs, for exp #2 of the season.
① 26.8 × 19.8 ② 26.7 × 19.5 ③ 24.8 × 19.0 ④ 25.2 × 19.4
⑤ 25.8 × 19.0 ⑥ 25.9 × 19.3 ⑦ 24.3 × 18.4 (not developing).
First 6 are all nice and opaque.

28 April 1300. Bird in (old) high hole: checked it: empty. New hole empty also.
1320. Bird in new low hole in locust nearest the tank: 9 eggs, incubated. Hole tagged #5555.

5 May 1200. 5 babies, 3 do (1 on way out, probably), + 1 developed but unhatched egg.

6 May 845. 6 kids. Michelle thought she'd seen

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Knoll HNHR

(6 May) Them take the nest out during her watch yesterday, but apparently they did not.

16 May 1800. Caught the ♂ here with only a M band: turns out to be 825563, last seen in March.

24 May 800. Banded & bled the 5 kids. Stores? Yes.

1 July 1500. Parts hanging out in the nearest holes (for weeks!). Checked both open holes: empty.

9 Dec. See Plaque notes regarding acorns collected from granary; all are old (2002 vintage) but most are still intact, contrary to my suspicions! See back.

~~[illegible] Cleared out a starling nest (w/ babies) from the trash~~

2004

11 May 730. Holy shit! Old babies in new hole a foot or so above #270. 2 flew out! Banded 4! Sheesh! 6 altogether; will have to get those 2 by ambushing later on.

Cleared out a Starling nest with babies in cavity #289.

19 May 930. 1 egg (marked a fresh) in hole #5555. (used last yr).

20 May 1140. Hole empty. Egg-tossing, apparently.

21 May 1615. Set ambushes. Also cleared out hole #1324 (high hole in locust behind barn) which was infested with a Starling nest (5 kids).

Acorns taken from granaries, Dec. 2003

Knoll lobata

Intact	1	100.0%
Moldy	0	0.0%
Minor damage (<1/2)	0	0.0%
Major damage (>1/2)	0	0.0%
TOTAL	1	

Knoll douglasii

Intact	3	50.0%
Moldy	1	16.7%
Minor damage (<1/2)	2	33.3%
Major damage (>1/2)	1	16.7%
TOTAL	6	

Knoll agrifolia

Intact	74	90.2%
Moldy	6	7.3%
Minor damage (<1/2)	0	0.0%
Major damage (>1/2)	8	9.8%
TOTAL	82	

Knoll All

Intact	78	87.6%
Moldy	7	7.9%
Minor damage (<1/2)	2	2.2%
Major damage (>1/2)	9	10.1%
TOTAL	89	

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Knoll HNHR

22 May 700. A good set of autopsies. Got 2 old helpers not on the field list + the 2 NOBA fledglings in hole 5563 (old nest hole, lowish in locust closest to lab) and 5 adults (+ the unfledged runt) in the nest hole in the other locust. I took blood for S.I. analyses from all the birds in the nest hole, since the nestling was still in there.

Hopefully everyone's banded here now. Note that the ♀ I caught very well was planning to lay an egg today. I dealt with her as quickly as I could but it still may mess them up a bit.

2 June 1715. For DB/M #3401 up near the Schoolhouse with one of the kids — most likely j DB/M 3973.

3 June 1700. Bird in the 1st nesthole: 4 fresh eggs, marked 1-4.

9 June 1420. Checked nest: 6 eggs (forgot to make sure #1-4 were still there). EHD ~ 15 June.

17 June 1100. 5 kids, 2-3 do + 1 nested-up, unhatched egg. Band ~ 5 July.

3 July 1100. Banded the 2 kids. There was also a 3rd (dead) kid in the hole from which we got the nest. Lots of acorns still here.

21 Sept. Checked holes in (the) near locust: both empty.

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2002

Melanerpes formicivorus

School House HNHR

31 May Watching the birds flycatching up by the tennis court this evening, I first noted a ♀NOBA, and then wandered around to find screaming babies just behind my garage! We'll call this new group School House (SHOU), and we'll have to get up there tomorrow.

1 June 1150. Turned out to be way at the end of a dead branch, so I chopped it off and taped it back up. In the middle, we banded the 3 kits, who are ~24-25 days old!

1900. Watched who I presume is the ♂ on the tel pole up between the garage & Red House. He's: ♂ Da/LG M/Red-Or #3285 (from Cavity).

2002

23 Apr 1730. 2 birds in the elm tree and generally lounging out here: ♂ R-W(N)/M R-W(N)/Wn #3245 from Plaque and ♀ U/Orn ?? DOlive/G-W(N) #3175 (?) from 1800 (better check this). Looks like there may be a group here again after all!

No! The ♀ is one of the kids from last year: [♀]3473. The group lives!

4 July A fledgling back here behind the garage - I bet there was a nest here somewhere. I'll have to find where they're roosting.

2000 Walter D Koenig

Melanerpes formicivorus

MacRoberts HNHR

13 Jan. After seeing a bird in a hole up here, we ambushed and got ♂2973 from Stromberg & ♀3032 from 1500. There are stores here (a new tree - I didn't know this was a granary before) and a 3rd bird, who is probably another Stromberg male. This is one of 3 new groups this winter!

25 May Bird next to a new hole down the hill a bit from the granary. Cut the top off: empty but not bad. Could be used, at least if they don't mind the new rock top I gave it.

12 June 1300. Two birds here, but I'm not sure either belong here; it's possible that one was a kid from Knoll or maybe even Blompond along with an adult ♀.

29 August Teresa reports young fledglings here - apparently we missed a late nest. Bummer.

19 October Having finally found the hole, I ambushed tonight and got ♀3032 + 3 NOBA juvs, all of whom were molted or almost done molting. So the missed nest probably fledged in late spring.

15 December 0700. With 2 more (!) NOBAs here, I ambushed the same hole, nabbing ♂2999 and a ♂ NOBA, another juv just finishing his crown molt, now ♂3327. 1 more to go!

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May Roberts HNHR

26 March 1400. Opened the new hole in the tree over on Oak Ridge next to the granary: empty. But there was a bird in it and it was close to being ready.
Lots of stores.

13 April 1230. Checked the hole: 5 eggs, fairly fresh (EHD: 21 April). Measured one: ① 24.6 × 19.5
Watched roosting: 5 birds came, including ♂ M/Red-LB #2973, ♂ 2999, ♂ (M)/Yellow #3327 and definitely ♂? Yell/LBlue #3322. But all eventually left, after which ♂ M/Red-LB #2973 returned and roosted, alone best I could tell.

♂2973 roosted

14 April 1900. ♂2973 roosted in the nest again tonight (for sure)

20 April 1015. Collected the 5 eggs: ① 24.6 × 19.5 ② 24.7 × 19.8 ③ 25.1 × 19.4 ④ 24.8 × 18.8 ⑤ 24.7 × 19.4
The embryos were not anywhere near ready to hatch, so they must have been fresh on 13 April and thus only a week old (~~has~~ still hard to believe they could hatch in 4 more days!)
Tissue is now #3347-3351. This is experimental nest #4 for the year.

2 May 1400. Bird in (same) hole: 4 fresh eggs: ① 25.4 × 20.1 ② 24.9 × 19.9 ③ 25.0 × 20.1 ④ 24.5 × 19.1. EHD: 12 May.

5 May 1932. ♂2973 roosted ([♂]. M/). He comes quietly by himself and very late, just like the rooster (who I missed) on 3 May.

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MacRoberts HNHR

14 May 830. 5 babies, ~2 do; no unhatched eggs. Band ~2 June.

31 May 900. Took 2 kids to Phoebe's class and then banded the 4 kids here (#3557-3560).

26 June 1600. New nest! in other hole (#1305): 4 eggs, just beginning to hatch. Measured them: ① 25.1 × 20.3 ② 23.6 × 19.1 ③ 25.6 × 19.9 ④ 25.7 × 19.4. Band ~ 17 July.

16 July 1500. Banded the 2 kids (3607 & 3608).
2000. Watched nesting, but nobody came.

17 July 1230. And this was, clearly, a problem: kids are dead in nest. I had no sense that I scared anyone away last night, but I suppose it's likely I did. Bummer.

2002

15 April 1200. Two birds in hole (#1303). Checked it: empty; bottom not quite ready yet.

22 April 1345. Checked 1303: still empty and not pristine. Put some woodchips in to help get it ready. I also opened the other hole (tag 1305): a starling had started building but no eggs. In with the junk, however, were the remains of an ACWO!: ♂ Yel-Mauve/Mauve-Yellow 972-16399 Mauve(?) [Solid] LBlue #3459. Died not that long ago: feathers still fairly intact. (But maybe just well preserved? Could still have been in juv. plumage...)

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MacRoberts HNHR

2 May 1620. Bird in hole (tag #1303): 4 freshish eggs. Both ♂♂ seen one week ago, so we're definitely talking experiment here.

1925. Watched roosting: ♀ WN-LB/M #3323 came to the hole, but - Blue/DB-WN(N) #2999 was clearly the rooster.

3 May 1935. Totally different tonight: ♂2999 came by, but never entered the hole. Meanwhile, ♀3460 also came and one other bird entered the hole. But all of these guys left and in the end, ♂ N/Red-LB/Blue #2973 came and roosted, just as if he does this every night!

5 May 1930. ♂ R-WN(N)/Yel #3327 came by this evening, but then 2 birds roosted (1 may have left): ♂ - /DB-WN(N) 2999 went in, followed a bit later by ♂ WN/DB-WN(N) #2973. I think 1 bird then left, which was probably ♂2999, but I couldn't be sure. Both were clearly "prepared" to roost here.

6 May 900. Took the 4 eggs. Measured them (calipers checked): ① 24.3 × 20.2 ② 23.8 × 20.2 ③ 23.9 × 19.8 ④ 24.1 × 19.9. Exp. #4 for the year.

14 May 1330 Birds seem interested in the 1st nest hole, but I checked it and it's still empty.

27 May 1150. Bird in (same) hole: 4 eggs, incubated. Exellent. ① 23.5 × 20.0 ② 24.4 × 20.3 ③ 24.0 × 20.4 ④ 24.1 × 19.8 (Calipers checked)

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MacRoberts HNHR

29 May Still stores here by the way.
1945. Tonight 2 birds roosted M/Red DB #2973
plus a mystery bird: ? Or/M. Closest I can
come for this latter bird (who entered 1st)
is either ♀3458 (a MacRoberts kid last seen
Aug 2001) or ♂2704 from Blowpond. I'll
have to try that one again

31 May 1950. Tonight, watching from the other side, only
1 bird roosted: ? Or/(N) #2973 for sure.

3 June 1030. Checked the hole 4 babies, 1-2 to.
(Banded 23 June). Still stores here.

9 June 1130. Bled the 4 kids, just in case. (#3714-3717).
♂2973 on nest; we measured him & replaced
one of his bands.

22 June 915. Banded the 3 kids (4th nest died or just
removed). Still have some acorns here.

2003

7 April Lots of stores.

15 April 1300 5 fresh eggs (same hole as usual).

17 April 1915. I blew it at roosting tonight. 3 birds
roosted: ♂3715 (the helper), ♂3327 (another helper-
the one who had moved to Second Canyon), + a third
bird who I missed. Drat! I'll try again tomorrow.

18 April 1930. ♂3715 & ♂3327 again roosted. ♂2999
came but left and did not roost in the nest. There's
every reason to believe that a third bird, presumably
♂2973, was in the whole time and did roost, but

Melanerpes formicivorus

Mackoberts HNHR

(18 April) in fact I never actually saw him. By elimination, however, he probably roosted in the nest.

19 April 940 Took the 5 eggs (exp #4) ① 25.1 × 19.8 ② 26.1 × 20.1 ③ 24.8 × 19.3 ④ 26.2 × 20.2 ⑤ 25.5 × 19.6

25 April 2 of the eggs were hatched at 730 this morning.

5 May 1645. Checked the hole, and it's just as well, as there was a complete Starling nest in it! I cleared it out and left it ready for the woodpeckers again.

10 May 1600. A starling flew out when I came up here, and yes, yet another complete nest was in the hole. I cleaned it out yet again. Also checked (and cleaned out) their other old nesthole (tag #1305), which had 3 hatchling + 3 eggs [starling nest] in it. Yuk! If they hurry, the woodpeckers should have somewhere to go now!

14 May Starling not only built another nest, but has 2 eggs in the hole! This time I nailed her after dark and cleaned out the hole.

21 May 1700 Opened the new hole, which they are still working on. It's very close to being ready, tho. Tree is in between the other nests, & low — only about 10' up, facing the labs.

27 May 1500. The new hole doesn't look like it's been touched since the last time. Meanwhile, in the old hole, there is (was) some junk à la

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Melanerpes formicivorus

MacRoberts HNHR

(27 May) a starling nest, but in among it ~~was~~ were 2 fresh woodpecker eggs (!) Not sure what this means or what to do; perhaps I'll replace the eggs with 2 dead ones just in case it all falls apart?

1700. Did the deed: The 2 eggs (① 25.4 × 20.8 ② 24.6 × 20.4) are now in the incubator, replaced with 2 eggs from the fridge.

29 May 1115. 4 eggs, + bird in the hole. All OK here, apparently. New eggs: ③ 24.8 × 20.3 ④ 25.1 × 20.6 I should put the eggs back in a couple of days.

7 June 645. Returned the 2 eggs (which have been in the incubator), ~~[illegible]~~ and took the 2 dead eggs out. There are 5 eggs here (#5: 25.2 × 19.9), so the last egg was laid 30 May. All 5 look just fine.

15 June 2010. Watched roosting. ♂ 3327 went in, and then, quite late, ♂ M/Red-Blue/CN # 2973 joined him.

29 Sept 845. Acorns stored here (from last year).

2004

21 April 1600. Still stores here. Also, a bird in the hole: 3 fresh(ish) eggs! The 1st nest of the year! Eggs measured: ① 23.5 × 18.9 ② 24.4 × 19.3 ③ 24.5 × 20.0 (calipers checked).

23 April 1630. Checked the nest: 5 eggs. 2 new ones are ④ 25.6 × 19.1 ⑤ 25.7 × 19.7.

27 April 730. Took the eggs for the first (and probably only)

Melanerpes formicivorus

McRoberts HNHR

(27 April) experiment for the year. (There were still 5 of them.) Group is a perfect 2 breeder ♂♂ + 1 breeder ♀, + 1 (at least occasional) helper ♀.

4 May Cleared out their old hole (tag 1305), eliminating a starling nest with 5 kids in it.

18 May Starling in the hole (again! Just like last year!) This is their nest hole!
2000 Caught (ambushed) the starling incubating 5 eggs (tag 5303, I think). Cleared out the nest; squeezed the bird.

24 May 1545. Bird in the new (low) hole on Oak Ridge they were making last year: 4 eggs, a few days incubated. ① 23.7 × 19.5 ② 22.5 × 19.5 ③ 23.5 × 19.9 ④ 23.2 × 19.5. EHD ~ 31 May.

11 June 900. Banded & bled the 2 kids.

15 June 1900. Watched roosting here ♂ w/ #2973 roosted in the nest for sure.

17 June 530 Ambushed the roost hole (the 1st nesthole); caught ♀3032, ♂2999, + 1 ♂ helper. So! ♂2973 almost certainly roosted here. Then banded + bled the 2 kids.

24 August 830. Bird in hole (by fence). Checked it: empty. Out of stores here.

2000
2001

Walter D Koenig

Melanerpes formicivorus

Blompond — HNHR

13 Jan. There are apparently 2♂♀ and 1♂ here, all NOBAs, along with some (not a lot) of stores in the Valley oak at the pond. We hoped to catch them roosting up at MacRoberts, but they turned out to be another group!

24 May 1700. On a lark (after seeing a bird in the big VO on Blomquist's just up from Blompond) we looked around the big Sycamore down from the Y, finding

① Stores! They're storing in the bark here and have acorns left!

② A nest!! With old babies in it. I climbed and opened it, banded 4 kids ~~N~~ at least 26-28 do. We also set an ambush, just in case someone roosts in the hole tonight.

25 May 1330. Watching — I think not.

1400. ♀ feeds: she's banded!

① 1405 ♀ M/Da- or ~~♂ Da-M~~ ?? or a 5th bird ??

#3144 ② 1408 ♂ Lg/Or M/Lg-Wh(L) — Definite ♂ Lg/Or M/Lg-Wh(N)

#2967 ③ 1420. ♀ M/Lg-Wh(N)/M — Definitely [random stripes Maybe DB-Wh(N)?]

#2968 ① 1445. ♀ M/Lg-Wh(N) — Definite ♂ M/Y(yel)

#2704 #~~[illegible]~~ ④ 1450 ♂ Or/M Or-Wh, 2704 Def.

I think 4 birds, all banded!

24 Aug Bird in hole! Checked it: empty.

2001

4 May New hole found by Lance! Opened it: it's a total crapper. Forgot to write down how many eggs!

17 May 1000. Bottom did indeed fall out! Nothing left.

2001 Walter D Koenig

Melanerpes formicivorus

Blompond HNHR

25 May 900. Spent another hour trying, and failing, to get into the nest here, which is way down in a knothole in the sycamore. But, the babies have hatched, so plan on banding them (assuming I make it in here eventually) about 6/12.

30 May 930. Still didn't make it all the way, but reached 1 baby, so with luck I'll be able to get them for banding. But do it early!

7 June 1530. Banded the kids – a horrible feat, since I had to reach way in and scoop them out. I can't be positive I got them all, but I think I did, having ended up with 5.

26 June 1100. Found 2 of the kids dead beneath the hole; both were at least a week older than when I banded them. They were Blk-Wh/Red Red-Blk/M and (not sure which leg) Mv/LG-LB(N)

1200. Checked the (Starling) hole: 1 egg! Unfortunately, I couldn't reach the bottom, so I'll have to come back to open it.

30 July 900. Banded the 2 kids in the 2nd nest here. This is the last (known) nest of a truly breathtaking year!

2 August 1300. Caught the ♀2968 in a net we set up at our pond at the School House for (with) the Birkheads.

2002
2003

Walter D Koenig

Melanerpes formicivorus

Blowpond HNHR

2 May 1700. Bird in hole (tag 280): 6 fresh eggs.
① 24.8 × 19.2 ② 25.4 × 20.3 ③ 25.6 × 20.1
④ 25.0 × 20.3 ⑤ 25.3 × 20.3 ⑥ 26.0 × 20.9
(calipers checked). EHD: 12 May (2 ♀♀ here: are they still laying?)
Still stores here in this tree.
Although these guys sort of got their start down at Blowpond, shouldn't they be called "Knoll" and the current Knoll be called "Y"?

13 May 1315. Checked the hole: 5 babies ~~A~~ 3-4 do + no eggs. One kid was clearly on the way out; I collected him as #3674, leaving 4 kids. Band ~ 30 May.

29 May 1630. Banded and bled the 4 kids.

2003

7 April Bird in traditional hole. Stores: yes.

8 April 1100. Checked hole: 7 eggs; 2-3 do. Lots of stores here.

18 April 1630 ~~HNH~~. I had 4 babies, pretty new, plus 3 eggs, only 1 of which was developed. ~~[illegible]~~ Band on 7 May

21 April 1600. Set up an busher. Still 4 babies + 3 unhatched eggs (which are not going to hatch).

27 April Saw ♂2704 and ♀2967 while trying to get the ♂ NOBA - if he really exists. Also saw ♀2968 for sure.

1 May 1630. Going for the NOBA ♂ again for a bit.

2003
2004

Walter D Koenig

Melanerpes formicivorus

Blanpond HNHR

(1 May) 1730. Saw lots of birds. ♀2967, ♀2968, ♂2704, ♀3703, and ♂3705 all for sure, and also ♀3706. No sign of the NOBA ♂, however. I'll have to try next week.

8 May 1130. At long last, we got the NOBA ♂, who really was a NOBA ♂. Who is he? Heck if I know. In any case, we banded him, added a band to ♂2704, and banded the 4 kids. Lots of stores left here, by the way.

4 June 1700. Checked the hole (bird in it, actually fairly regularly for several days now): 2 fresh eggs, marked.

9 June 1015. Hole empty! Oh well. Maybe it's not that great a year afterall.

17 June 1600. Finally broke down and checked the hole after seeing birds in here regularly once again but! It's empty.

9 Dec. See plague notes and back regarding (old) acorns taken from the granary here.

2004

3 May 1330. Still stores, presumably from fall 2002.

9 May Cleaned out a Starling nest from the traditional hole - tagged 280. Had babies.

24 May Still stores. But where are the birds?

13 June Cleaned out another starling nest from hole #280, with old nestlings.

27 June Still a fair number of stores here.

Acorns taken from granaries, Dec. 2003

Blompond lobata		
Intact	16	37.2%
Moldy	11	25.6%
Minor damage (<1/2)	7	16.3%
Major damage (>1/2)	21	48.8%
TOTAL	43	
Blompond douglasii		
Intact	2	50.0%
Moldy	1	25.0%
Minor damage (<1/2)	1	25.0%
Major damage (>1/2)	1	25.0%
TOTAL	4	
Blompond agrifolia		
Intact	0	0.0%
Moldy	0	0.0%
Minor damage (<1/2)	0	0.0%
Major damage (>1/2)	1	100.0%
TOTAL	1	
Blompond All		
Intact	18	37.5%
Moldy	12	25.0%
Minor damage (<1/2)	8	16.7%
Major damage (>1/2)	23	47.9%
TOTAL	48	

2002
2003

Walter D Koenig

Melanerpes formicivorus

2nd Canyon — HNHR

9 June — Nest of this new (or at least previously unknown) group found. See "CECN" notes for sizes of the 4 eggs. ♀ here apparently a NOBA. Group could have existed in 2001, who knows? I don't look over here very often, and this would certainly have been true in 2001 with both CECN nests being in their granary.

14 June — 1330. Babies are hatching: 2 have hatched, the other 2 eggs aren't pipped but probably will hatch. Set the ambusher (NOBA ♀ here). Band ~ 4 July.

24 June — 1000. Ambusher set.
1600. Finally got her! (No, I didn't actually sit here all day; only 2 hrs or so.)

3 July — 1030. Banded the 2 kids here. No known stores; all that seems evident are a few holes in the nest tree (dead limbs).

2003

26 April — 1600 Opened up and checked the old hole. It wasn't even quite ready to go, but I cleaned it up a bit and it should be now. In any case, it was empty.

11 May — 1230 Starlings have apparently fledged and it's all now pretty quiet here. Still stores in the tree.

4 June — 1730. No bird in hole, but one in the vicinity, so I checked: 2 fresh eggs! (Marked 1 & 2)

9 June — 1100. Nest empty!

2000
2001

Walter D Koenig

Melanerpes formicivorus

Central Canyon

HNHR

23 April — 1600. New hole! Very low in the dead tree. Babies! Young. Banding D ~ 11 May. Need to open the hole.

24 April — 1100. 3 babies ~ 10 do! Band 5 May. Hole tagged 1337 (HNHR tag). Lots of acorns still here.

4 May — 1245. Banded + bled the 3 kids. Plenty of stores still.

12 May — 430. Went and caught the bird roosting in the nest, who was ♂3078, the helper ♂!!!

6 June — 1000. Checked the nest, opening it a tad more so I could reach everything (which I'm not sure I did last time): 4 kids, 3-4 do, + 1 pipped but unhatched egg. Thus, clutch size was apparently 5. Band ~ 23 June.

23 June — 1230. Banded the 4 kids in the 2nd nest.

8 Sept. — Still stores here. Lots, in fact, but they don't appear to be new.

2001

26 March — 1420. Came to check the low hole (see 23 April 2000 above) but instead there was a bird in the hole above it (#287). I checked it, but it was empty. Lots of stores here, though.

9 April — 1215. ♂ in same hole (#287). Checked: 5 fresh eggs.

20 April — 930. Checked hole: 3 babies (no eggs); ~2 do.

8 May — 1100. Banded the 1 remaining chick (#3384).

24 May — 800. Bird in low hole; checked it: empty but nice.

3 June — 815. Bird in low hole (#1337): 6 eggs, incubated.

① 24.8 × 19.5 ② 24.8 × 19.7 ③ 24.5 × 19.7 ④ 24.5 × 19.2
⑤ 24.4 × 18.8 ⑥ (not developing) 21.6 × 18.2

2001
2002

Walter D Koenig

Melanerpes formicivorus

Central Canyon

HNHR

13 June 1400. 2 babies + 1 unhatched egg.

31 July 1000. Nelli found the 2nd nest, up in the scraggly Valley Oak (Tagged #1082) just up from the granary. 3 kids, ~24 do! For cavity info (no tag) see back.

2002

12 April 1230. Checked the hole they've been interested in (#287): nice but empty.

30 April 1400. Checked #287 again: still empty.

7 June 1215. ♂ or/or #2208 in granary.
1220. ♀ DB-or/M ?? Def. a ♀. Seen fairly well. Out of stores, best I can tell.

9 June 1600. Wandered over to the 2nd canyon, where there are 2 birds in a new hole in the nice valley oak! Flushed them out and didn't hear anything, so perhaps eggs? Birds flushed away from CECN, so there's the possibility it's not even this group.

group 2nd Cyn { 1730. Came back and opened the hole, which has 4 incubated eggs: ① 24.3 × 20.0 ② 24.2 × 19.7 ③ 24.1 × 20.0, ④ 23.5 × 19.3 (calipers checked). Need watches here! EHD ~14 June. Hole tagged #5564

12 June It's looking like the nest is not CECN's, but a new (or at least previously unknown) group that I'll call 2nd Cyn. Still no CECN nest!

(200)

2nd nest (31 July)
Valley Oak (tag # 1078)
Hole: No tag
Dir: 50°
Angle: -60°
DNH: 0.86 m
Live
Height 16'
Tree Ht: 20'

2000 Walter D Koenig

Melanerpes formicivorus

Lonesome Dove HNHR

27 Jan Walking up to Laguna Conejo, I discovered a lot (several hunded) of stored acorns here! (see map on back). This is a first - I had no idea there (could) be a group here.

19 April 1300. 3 birds here plus lots of stores still. Noone in a hole, though.

21 April 1130. Nest is in the 2nd tree. Opened it: 4 eggs, fairly fresh (EHD: 30 April). Measured one: 24.6x19.7. Hole is tagged #300.

2 May 920. Eggs just hatching: 2 babies, 1 pipped egg, 1 unhatched egg.

3 May 1530. All 4 hatched. Band 23 May.

18 May 1115. Caught one of the NOBA ♂♂, now #3198.
1140. Caught the 2nd one; now #3199.

19 May Lorelle reports they were feeding fine.

24 May 1230. Came to band the kids, but the hole cutout had fallen out! One was dead on the ground, but that's the only one we found. Wierd. Did I not put the hole together well? Bummer.
Anyway, it's back in well now. Stores left here.

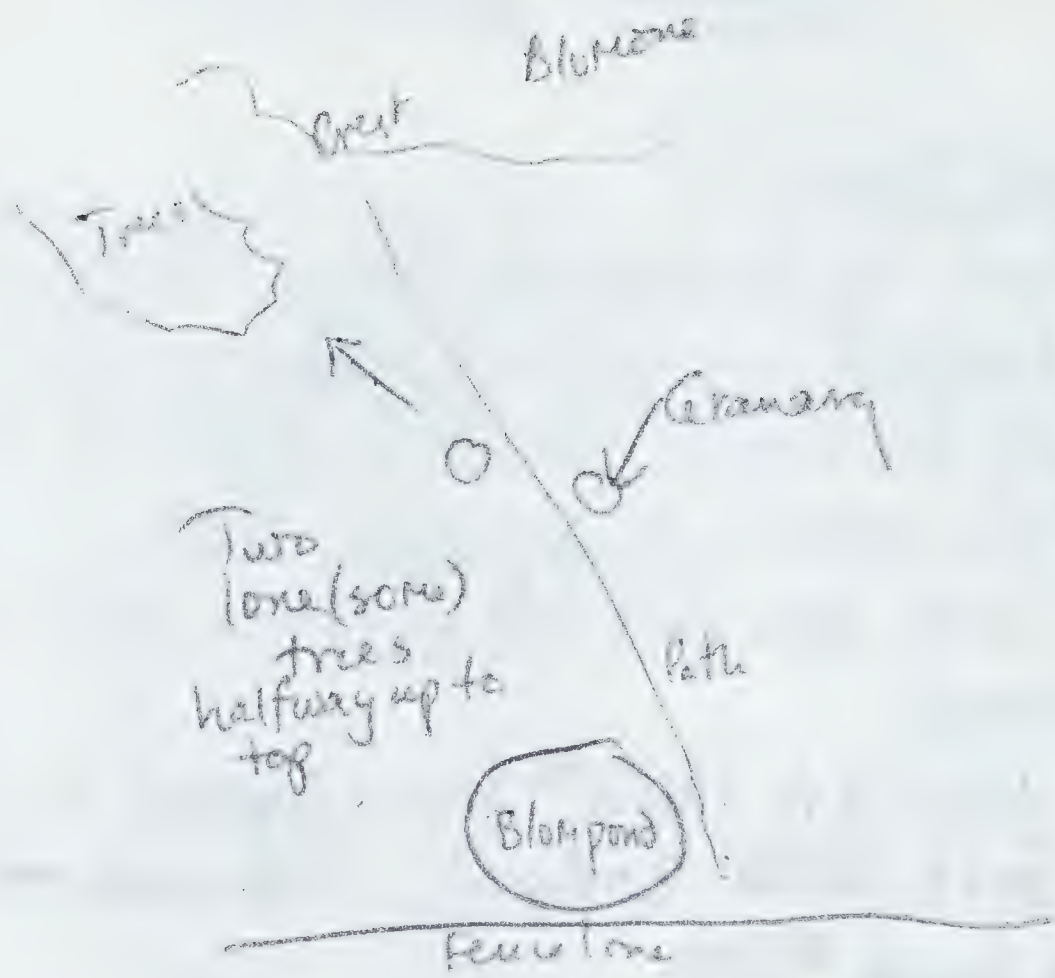
6 June Bird in new hole over in the granary.

9 June Bird in the hole again.

11 June 1500. Noone in the hole, but I opened it anyway: nice but empty. Still stores here.

19 July Out of stores

2 Sept. Ambush: got ♂3199 and the (new) ♀NOBA, ♂3198 (presumably) flew out when I pulled the bobber.



Lonesome Dove
Jan 2000

The birds (a pair?) are apparently flying off to the trees up on the left.

~~2000~~ Walter D Koenig

2001
2002
2003

Melanerpes formicivorus

LODO HNHR

10 April 1030. Bird in hole, opened (now #1302): 3 eggs, incubated.

16 April 1230. Collected the 3 eggs: ① 26.1 × 18.1 ② 26.0 × 17.6 ③ 26.8 × 18.2 One was fertile but way underdeveloped, so only 2 would have hatched. They are now #3344-3346.

11 May 1700. Finally the nest, in the hole 2' above the last one (now tagged 1317): 3 fresh eggs, measured: ① 25.6 × 18.6 ② 25.7 × 18.5 ③ 25.8 × 18.8. EHD ~23 May (may not be done laying).

24 May 815. 2 babies, ~4 do, plus one empty but kind-of-intact unhatched (probably infertile) egg. Band ~6/10.

18 October Ambushed this morning at the high hole, but only got ♂3199. Where's everyone else?

2002

14 June 1400. Finally: a bird in the lowest of the 3 holes. A nest, finally?

2003

7 April Bird in (new) hole, slightly higher than the others. Also lots of stores here.

8 April 1530. Opened the hole: 4 pretty fresh eggs.

10 April 930. Watching, trying to get the NOBA ♀
1100. ♂3198 came, but neither of the others 2.
Plenty of stores here. Will try again tomorrow.

15 April 1050. Watching again. ♂3198 back quickly.
1230. Giving up. Leaving it sit though.

16 April Trying again. Finally saw all 3 birds, although

2003 Walter D Koenig

Melanerpes formicivorus

LODO HNHP

(16 April) only ♂3198 was at the nest the vast majority of the time.

1130. I give up (I've been here 3 hrs.) I'm going to take the eggs and have to wait for the 2nd nest to get the ♀.

17 April 1115. Took the eggs. One has a small puncture, but all of them look clear and undeveloped. Possibly all are infertile anyway. We'll see, I guess. Otherwise, this is exp #3

26 April Finally gave up incubating the eggs, none of which have developed at all!

7 May 1340. Bird in same hole: 4 fresh eggs (let's try again!) ① 27.3 × 20.2 ② 26.5 × 19.5 ③ 26.2 × 19.4 ④ 26.8 × 20.0.

9 May 1430. Got the ♀, finally! Banded her as #3797 and took the eggs again. (Hopefully they're fertile this time).

28 May 1000. Checked hole (tag #1302): 5 eggs, incubated (!) Finally - a clutch that's not a bunch of duds.

7 June 610. Checked hole: 4 kids, a good 5-6 to band ~ 22 June.

21 June 500. Banded and bled the 4 kids

29 Sept There are acorns stored here, at least some of which are fresh!

2003 Walter D Koenig

Melanerpes formicivorus

Gator HNHR

16 May 1430. Bird in dead willow, next to Big Creek at perhaps 1200 (before 1500). Opened Hole: 4 eggs, incubated. ① 25.2 × 19.0 ② 23.9 × 19.1 ③ 25.1 × 19.6 ④ 24.6 × 18.6. Hole tagged #5806.

18 May 1115. Lindsay did a watch and then caught the NEBA ♀ here. And then I took the eggs, most likely for the Taft experiment of the year.

2002 Walter D Koenig 1
2003

Melanerpes formicivorus

Middle Long Field HNHR

22 Nov. Among the various new groups this fall (!), several of which are down in this area, is "Middle Long Field", which is along the creek across from 1800, more or less. One of the valley oaks has several roost holes, and this morning I caught 2 birds (1♂, 1♀) in one of them. This is not the whole group, unfortunately, but it's a start. They do have some acorns in this tree also, by the way.

2003

2 June 1200. Lindsay found a nest with old babies here, almost certainly "MLF1"; hole is now #5814, low in tree facing 1800. Banded the 4 kids. Try to ambush tonight, just in case I can get the NOBA ♂?

17 June Apparently MLF2 snuck a nest on us. Bummer. Must find hole!

21 June 430. Ambushed the MLF1 hole, nabbing ♂3765, ♀3766, and 3 of the kids. Perhaps no NOBA ♂ at all/anymore, unless Joey caught him (with a NOBA ♀?) last night? (see "Long Field" notes.)

2003 Walter D Koenig

Melanerpes formicivorus

Long Field [Bonnie & Clyde] HNHR

20 June Having found a root hole on the School Hill side of the road down here right about where MLF2 is, Joey ambushed this morning and caught a NOBA♂ and NOBA♀. Who are they? Probably neither MLF1 or MLF2. My guess is that they're yet another "group", perhaps up on the side of School Hill? At least they presumably ~~didn't~~ haven't had a nest (that we missed).

2000 Walter D Koenig 1
2001

Melanerpes formicivorus

1500 HNHR

3 May 1210. Opened old hole low in Tree #1 (hole #291). Less, fresh: 24.6 x 19.1 (marked #1).

9 May 900. 4 eggs. Measured another one: 25.6 x 19.0 mm.

19 May 1530. 4 babies (1 distinctly smaller but still OK); 3-4 do. Band ~6 June.

7 June Banded the 4 kids. Lots of stores left.

30 August Still lots of stores.

2001

4 April 1215 Bird in the (old) low nest hole this morning, so I checked it: empty but in good shape.

9 April 1330. Noone in the hole but I checked it anyway: empty.

27 April 1330. Bird in hole: 3 fresh eggs. Done?
① 25.1 x 20.5 ② 23.9 x 20.2 ③ 24.8 x 20.2

11 May 1615. Apparently not: now 4 eggs, at least one (the 4th !?) pipping. The 4th measured 25.5 x 20.1, by the way. All should hatch; band ~ 2 June.
Assuming they hatch tomorrow, this was a 14 days from the last egg laid to hatching (13 days min)!

14 May 1030. Still 4 eggs!! It's not looking good for these guys; there would appear to be a serious problem with these eggs

16 May 900. 3 eggs; I removed them and cracked them open - none had developed normally. Oh well. Hope they try again -

2002 Walter D Koenig
2003

Melanerpes formicivorus

1500 HNHR

12 April — Stores here, but noone in a hole.

7 May — Still stores, plus 2 new good-looking holes.

30 May — 1430. Still lots of stores; where's their nest??

2 June — 930. Doug saw a bird go in the (new) hole, so I finally went up to check the hole (#291). It was filled with eaten acorns, lichen, + general mouse debris. I cleaned it out, so maybe they'll use it now? We'll see.

2003

7 April — Bird in (new) hole in Main tree.

8 April — 1700 Opened the hole (tagged #1327): 4 eggs incubated (!) Measured them: ① 24.6 × 20.1 ② 25.3 × 19.6 ③ 25.5 × 19.8 ④ 25.2 × 19.4.

10 April — 1900. Roosting in the nest was or/-brn #3225 for sure!

#3225 roosted

11 April — 1415. Took the 4 eggs for exp #1 of the year.

15 April — Eggs hatched this morning (or last night). Processed as #3768-3771.

28 April — 1530. Checked the (new) hole just for the heck of it: empty.

14 May — 1315. Bird in same hole (#1327): 4 eggs, incubated! Excellent! ① 24.7 × 20.0 ② 24.5 × 19.7 ③ 25.1 × 19.3 ④ 24.8 × 20.0.

22 May — 1150. 3 kids, 2-3 do, + 1 unhatched + undeveloped egg (#2). Band ~9 June.

30 May — 1145 ♂ sol/light-DK #3225 roosted tonight in the nest.

5 June — 2000. Noone roosted in the nest, but I could tell!

2003 Walter D Koenig
2004

Melanerpes formicivorus

1500 HNHR

6 June 920. Came to band the kids & all 3 dead in nest. Unclear whether this is because they weren't brooded last night or what, and if so, why nobody roosted. Bummer - but hopefully they're still OK for DNA.

15 June 1700. 2 new eggs: ① 23.4 × 20.4 ② 23.0 × 20.0. Maybe it, it seems as though they're incubating.

19 June 1000. Hole empty! Yet another failure. Still stored acorns here, though.

1 July 1430. And again: 2 fresh eggs ① 23.5 × 19.8 ② 24.0 × 19.6. Maybe they can do better this time.

11 July 1600. 1 hatchling + 1 unhatched but developed egg. Band ~ 31 July.
Stores. Yes.

21 July 1400. Banded the 1 kid here.

2004

3 May Starling nest w/ hatchlings in traditional nest hole. Set an ambush.
1145. Ambushed the ♀ (Starling); squeezed her and cleaned out the hole (tagged #1327)

20 May Bird in hole (1327)!
1130. Checked hole: 3 fresh eggs (could still be laying). ① 23.3 × 20.1 ② 24.0 × 20.5 ③ 23.5 × 20.2. EHB ~ 31 May

13 June Joey checked hatching some time ago. This evening I came by to set an ambush, but upon opening the hole (~1500) found dead, well-picked-over nestling. (1 only?) Ants had gone nuts!

2000
2001

Walter D Koenig

Melanerpes formicivorus

1800 HNHR

16 May 1115. Banded the 5 babies here. Still stores left.
8 Sept. Out of stores.

2001

4 April 1045. Bird in (same old) nest hole.
1240. Checked hole: 4 eggs, fresh.

8 April Jen watched roosting: ♂M, #2898 + 2 ♀♀ (whose bands didn't match up) roosted in nest.
♂2898 roosted

9 April Jen watched roosting again. This time 3 birds again, ♂2898 + a 2nd ♂ + a ♀.
♂2898 + ?? roosted
So it could have been ♂2680 as well, I suppose, but it was definitely ♂2898 again.

12 April 1330. Collected the 5 eggs, so LED was 5 April. Measured them: ① 23.8 × 19.2 ② 24.3 × 19.0 ③ 25.4 × 20.1 ④ 24.1 × 18.5 ⑤ 23.0 × 18.0
All 5 were fertile, but not nearly as close to hatching as I'd thought. They are now #3339-3343.

4 May 1000. Bird in hole!

8 May 1600. Peeped the hole: 10 eggs!! Are there 2 ♀♀ here?? EHD: 15 May.

7 June 1430. Banded the only 2 kids that made it from that very large set of eggs. (#3498-3499).

1 July 1330. Bird in hole!
1730. Checked it: 3 inc. eggs (!): ① 25.1 × 20.6 ② 22.4 × 18.6, and ③ 25.4 × 20.1. All are developing, inc the small one. Also in the hole: ½ a hatched eggshell; where did it come from, I wonder?

2001
2002
2003
2004

Walter D Koenig

Melanerpes formicivorus

1800

HNHR

23 July 1445. Banded the 1 baby at the 2nd (successful) nest here.

2002

12 April Stores here, but noone in a hole.

7 May Still stores, but I can't see evidence of a nest.

21 May 1715. Bird in traditional hole (also on 19 May). Time to check it

19 June 1400. Banded and bled the 3 babies (#3737-3739).

2003

7 April Lots of stores.

13 May 1515. New tagged hole: #5801
3 eggs: (1) 23.8 × 19.5 (2) 23.0 × 19.2 (3) 23.2 × 19.0
Fresh. EHD! Could still be laying.

16 May 1400. 5 eggs. The new ones are: (4) 23.0 × 19.0 and (5) 23.7 × 19.7. EHD ~ 26 May.

28 May 1145. Nest completely empty!

3 July 1300 Banded the 2 kids. (See Joey's notes for earlier info on this nest.) Acorns: Yes, lots.

29 Sept A few acorns here, at least.

2004

3 May Don't seem to be any stores left here.

12 May Starling nest in the traditional hole here.

13 May Cleaned out the starling nest. There are other holes in this tree - way up there.

14 June Opened a new hole in the 2° tree in the main trunk facing the road: full of water!

24 August No stores

2001
2002
2003

Walter D Koenig

Melanerpes formicivorus

Lower Long Field — HNTER

10 May — 1430. After sitting here for 45 min and not really seeing anything I walked around the sycamores and bingo! A bird in a hole!

11 May — 1600. Opened the hole: 7 eggs, incubated. Measured one: 25.1 × 19.8. Hole tagged #1316.

16 May — 1500. 4 babies, 1-2 do, + 3 unhatched (but developed) eggs. Band ~ 4 June.

Birds have stored acorns stuck in various places in the sycamore, by the way.

4 June — 1600. Banded the 6 (!) kids.

2002

22 April — Bird in the 2001 hole.

23 April — 1130. Opened/checked the hole: empty but in OK shape.

24 May — 1415. Checked the hole: 3 eggs, mid-late inc. (EHD ~ 28 May). ① 24.1 × 20.8 ② 24.3 × 21.1 ③ 23.8 × 19.7 (calipers checked).

19 June — 1315. Banded the 2 kids.

2003

8 April — 1100. Noone in the hole, but 2 birds in the tree. Also, the stump (25') of a sycamore next door is now a fairly reasonable granary, quite full no less.

11 April — 1330. Bird in hole: 3 fresh eggs. Presumably still laying.

18 April — 1400. 5 eggs. ① 24.4 × 20.4 ② 24.3 × 20.7 ③ 24.8 × 20.8 ④ 24.0 × 19.8 ⑤ 24.8 × 19.5. EHD 4/24.

27 April — 1400. Checked nest: 4 kids (~4 do) + 1 unhatched ♀

2001 Walter D Koenig

Melanerpes formicivorus

Crystal HNHR

5 September I'm pretty sure that I've finally found the hole for the "mystery" group, located in the forest between Lower Long Field and Horsetail, presumably from which the WOBA fledgling found by Joey here along the road back in early July, fledged.

Unfortunately, I pretty much had to cut the limb with the hole and tape it down a bit lower on the tree, so I didn't set the ambush, figuring I'll give them a while to get used to it all.

However, the amazing thing is that below the hole in a dead limb of the tree are at least a few old, stored acorns!

2001
2002
2003

Walter D Koenig

Melanerpes formicivorus

Horsetail — HNHR

23 April — 1400. Bird in new hole in dead granary limb! 6 eggs, fresh. Measured one: 24.8 × 18.7.

4 May — 1030. Counted 5 babies, ~2 do. Band ~23 May.

16 May — 1130. Caught the ♀NOBA (now 3406) then went ahead and banded the 5 kids.

8 June — 800. Bird in hole, so I checked it, but it's empty; no 2nd nest yet. Still acorns here, though.

16 June — 1715. Checked the hole again: empty.

1 July — 1700. Checked hole: 4 inc. eggs. Could hatch anytime.

23 July — 1540. Banded the 2 kids in this second nest.

2002

23 April — 1200. Not much in the way of holes here (I found 1, maybe), but there are birds and stores.

26 April — Put up an artificial hole up here in case they need it. (last year's hole is gone and we sure can't find any others).

22 August — 1345! No stores, but there are birds here.

2003

1 May — 1000. Came just to fix up the artificial hole, only to find: 5 incubated eggs! ① 25.0 × 19.6 ② 25.2 × 18.5 ③ 24.6 × 19.2 ④ 25.2 × 19.3 ⑤ 25.6 × 19.6. Still lots of stores here: they've turned the tree into a good granary!

5 May — 1315. Still 5 eggs.

6 May — 1200. Still 5 eggs.

14 May — 1400. 3 babies, ~7 do. Band ~28 May.

2001 Walter D Koenig
2002

Melanerpes formicivorus

Dipsy HNHR

5 Jan This is a pair storing in H-B's old nest tree, The big VO just over The fence as one reaches The 1st flat area up Haystack Hill. (See Map) In any case, I noticed a bird roosting in a new hole here so I opened it yesterday and ambushed This morning, nabbing only a ♂ NOBA, now ♂3329. Presumably he's here with ♀ 2842, a ♀ from CVZ. Lauryn says They are storing in This tree

16 April No sign of anything here lately, other than that there are still acorns stored in the tree.

29 April 1500. Bird in The old bluebird hole: 4 eggs; (peeped; I have to open it more to reach it)! Tagged the hole #1307.

30 April 1000. Opened The hole: 5 fresh eggs, measured: ① 25.4 × 19.0 ② 24.9 × 18.9 ③ 25.3 × 19.3 ④ 25.2 × 19.6 ⑤ 24.7 × 18.7

15 May 1400. 3 babies a good 5 days old. Band ~31 May.

24 May 1015. Still 3 babies looking good.

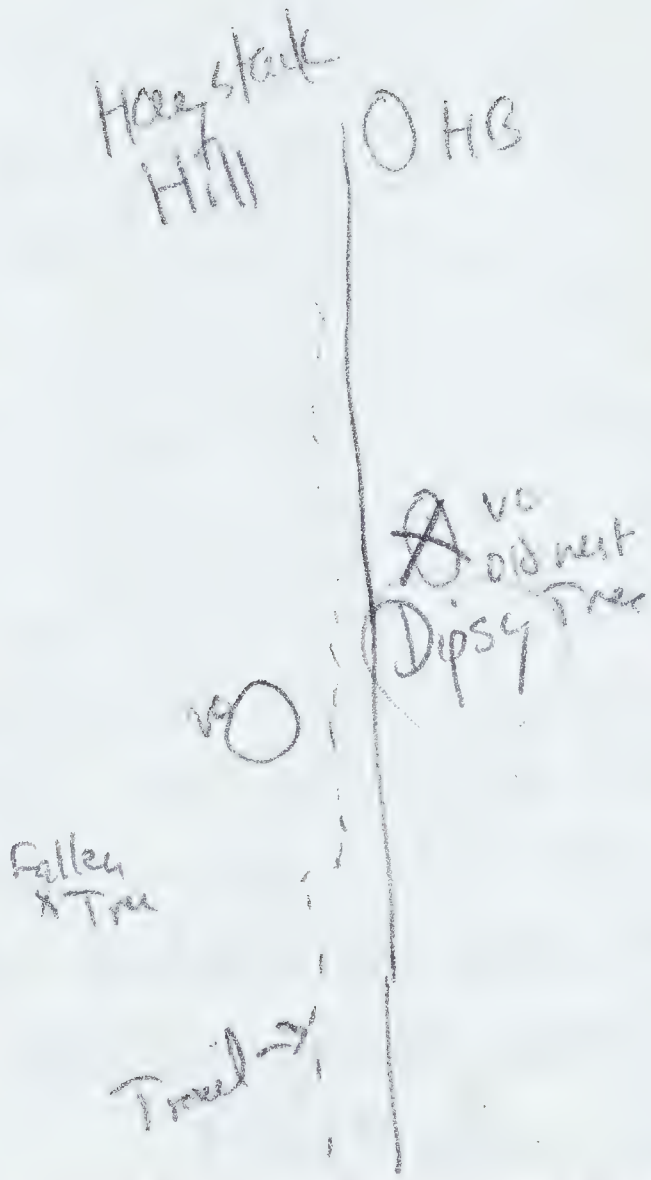
1 June 1300. Banded The 3 kids. Still stores.

2002

24 April 800. 2 birds eating catkins in The VO on HNHR side just down Haystack from Dipsy tree: ① ♂ LG-W(N)/LG-W(N) Da?/M #3588 from H-B and ② ♀ Red/Red M/LG-WR(N) [3584] H-B. ③ ♂ NOBA also here in tree.

7 May No sign of anyone here this year so far.

27 May 945. Birds in The tree (2?). Noone in a hole, though.


Haystack Hill
HB
VC
Old nest
Dipsy Tree
VO
Fallen Tree
Trail

2003 Walter D Koenig

Melanerpes formicivorus

Digsy HNHR

7 April Stores: yes. Noone in the holes, though.

28 April 1500. Bird in low hole: yes! 5 eggs, fresh (1 a nest)
Measured them: ① 26.0 × 19.8 ② 26.5 × 19.7
③ 26.0 × 20.4 ④ 26.3 × 19.0 ⑤ 19.5 × 15.4.

1 May 1200. Took the 5 eggs; experimental group (#5?)

17 May 940. Bird in hole (tag 1307) again! Yes! 5 eggs
a couple days incubated. ① 26.5 × 20.5
② 27.2 × 20.4 ③ 27.4 × 20.6 ④ 26.1 × 19.4 ⑤ 28.0 × 19.7.

28 May 1130. Checked the nest: still the same 5 eggs,
none of which have developed! Bummer! Yet
another all infertile clutch, and an experimental
at that. Oh well. I took the eggs - doesn't
seem like there's any point leaving them. With
luck they'll try again.

14 June 700. Bird in the old old old Hay-Blom hole!

19 June 1100. Finally succeeded in opening the hole, which
has 3 hatchlings + 1 developed egg. (Band ~ 9 July,
but get blood ASAP!)

24 June 2000. Watched roosting; ♂ m/ssid #3567 roosted
for sure ♂ 3568 came after ♂ 3567 was in, but then
left before entering once he saw the other bird in the
hole.

27 June 700. Took blood from the 3 kids.

3 July 1345. Nest empty! Some scat (black turds)
in the bottom, from a snake? At least we got
blood! There are still a few stores here

2000
2001

Walter D Koenig

1

Melanerpes formicivorus

Hay-Blom

HNHR

9 May — New hole! Lots of stores left here. 1400. Opened it: 8 eggs, incubated (one not developing). EHD: 13 May. See map on back.

17 May — 1500. Nest empty! Failed!

30 May — 1440. Plenty of stores, but noone anywhere, much less in a hole.

9 June — Bird in a new hole! Low, over toward LHay.

19 July — Still stores.

30 August — " "

2001

9 April — Bird in hole opened by Joey last summer/fall down above Soto springs.

10 April — 1130. Nobody in the hole, but I checked it (peeped it) anyway: empty. Looks like they cleared it down so far they opened a 1" hole through the bottom! I plugged it from the bottom, but they may have cleared this one too much to use.

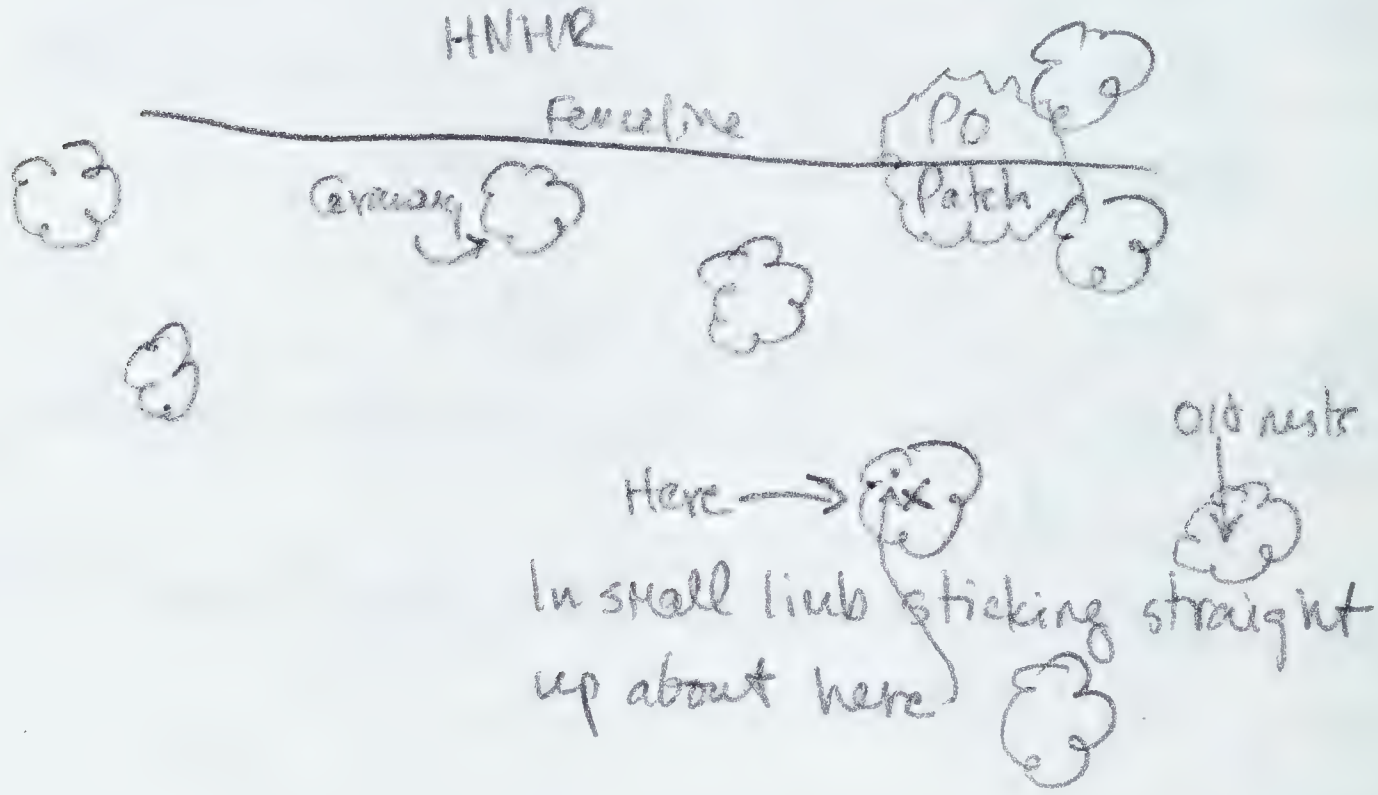
24 April — 1330. Bird in hole! SOTO SPRINGS

30 April — 1015. Nobody in hole, but checked anyway: 2 eggs! ① 27.4 × 20.3 ② 27.2 × 20.3. Finally! Egg #2 has a dent in it.

5 May — 1600. 4 eggs. Egg #1 is OK; #2 is not developing. Of the other 2 eggs, #3 (26.5 × 20.2) is empty (!), while #4 (27.5 × 19.7) may be OK but even it has a tiny crack/dent in it and may fail. Not so good!

This group is NOT H-B; it's a new group (SOTO SPGS)

New nest hole 9 May 2000



2001 Walter D Koenig
2002

Melanerpes formicivorus

H-B HNHR

15 May Still looking for a nest here! Other nest belongs to a new (budded) group I'm calling Sota Springs.

3 June Possibly in the high hole from 1997...? tag #275

4 June 1100. Noone looking out of the hole this time. Note: this hole definitely had starlings in it up to ~15 May; it would be neat if they used it anyway.

8 June 1300. Bird in the hole (tag #275): 4 freshish eggs! Finally! Measured 2: ① 26.3 × 20.4 ② 24.6 × 19.4.

22 June 1000. Well! They weren't done! There are now 7 young (1-2 do) kids + no unhatched eggs! Band ~ 11 July.

2002

24 April Still stores here. ♂3588 seen earlier foraging down past Dipsy.

920. ♀yel #2796 down in 2001 nest tree. They're hanging out down there a fair amount.

945. ♂ blk/red #2782 down at or near the hole. No mate guarding appears to be going on.

950. ♀ Res (Ind) #3584. (Also prob the ♀ at Dipsy earlier). Maybe only 1 breeder ♂ still here?

1 May 1515. Opened the high (2001) hole (tag 275): in OK shape but empty. Can barely reach the bottom.

7 May 1615. Noone in the hole (275) this time.

21 May 1645. Went up and checked the hole (275): still empty.

2002
2003
2004

Walter D Koenig

Melanerpes formicivorus

Hay-Glen HWHR

30 May 1340 - Still 2 left here, unless they're nesting in the Soto Springs hole

2003

7 April Lots of stores here.

26 April 1100. We got a nest, with babies, in a new hole low in one of the trees over ~~[illegible]~~ toward Soto Springs.
1105. Bird also flew out of the old high hole over toward Dipsy. What's up here?

28 April 1430. Opened the new hole: 4 chunky kids ~10-11 do. Band ~ 8 May. [Soto Springs, perhaps? yes]
1500. Meanwhile, the old high hole (tag 275) has 7 incubated eggs. What's going on here?!

8 May 1715. 2 babies (out of the 7 eggs!) ~4 to. Band ~ 25 May. Weather is definitely being a problem!

25 May 800. Banded the 2 kids. Acorns: Yes, lots
3 July still acorns; but no sign of a 2nd nest.
29 Sept. Very few, if any, stores here.

2004

12 May Hole #1307 (at Dipsy) cleared out of a nearly-fledged starling nest.
Meanwhile, I'm pretty sure that their (H-Bs) traditional hole (the high one over on Oak Ridge) has a starling in it as well. Yes! Definitely.

24 May Checked hole 1307 at Dipsy: empty but in good shape

2001 Walter D Koenig
2002
2003

Melanerpes formicivorus

Soto Springs

HNHR

15 May 1440. 2 babies, ~3 do. Band ~ 2 June.
For egg info on this group, see Hay-Blom notes

1 June 1500. Banded the 1 kid. There are some stories in this tree, by the way.

2002

15 April 1345. ♂ in (2001) hole. No sounds.
7 May Noone in the hole.
21 May 1050. Noone in hole.
27 May 1000. Bird in hole! Checked it. 4 inc eggs!
END 30 May Measurements: ① 24.7 × 20.4 ② 25.3 × 20.6 ③ 24.2 × 20.3 ④ 25.0 × 20.6 (calipers checked). Could this be H-Blom's nest?

3 June 930. Hole empty; all quiet here.

2003

28 April See Hay-Blom notes; these are perhaps the guys with 4 kids up within Hay-Blom's (usual) territory?

2 May Yes - this is indeed Soto Springs, although I'm not sure who all the birds are. See map on back. In any case, I came up at 1700 today and all 4 kids were dead in the nest. I don't think they've been dead more than a couple of days. Presumably another weather casualty at some level (it's still cold, rainy, + miserable out)!

8 June 1330. Bird in (1st) nest hole: 4 inc. eggs ① 27.7 × 19.7 ② 26.7 × 19.6 ③ 26.9 × 19.2 ④ 27.8 × 19.8.

2000
2001

Walter D Koenig

Melanerpes formicivorus

Lower Haystack

HNHR

19 April 1415. Lots of stores. Noone in a hole, but I checked the traditional hole anyway and was rewarded with 2 (cold) eggs: ① 23.8 × 19.6, ② 24.3 × 20.1. Need to check again for clutch size; EHD ~ 3 May.

23 April 1645. Seeds

3 May 1430. Hatching. 4 hatchlings + 1 egg, pipping and alive. No doubt all 5 will hatch, even if this last one doesn't make it. Band: 24 May.

24 May 1400. Banded & bled the 5 babies. Plenty of stores.

12 June 1400. At least one kid plus an adult (inside excavating in the nest hole, but best I can tell it's empty. (But it's been deepened and I couldn't quite reach the bottom, so I couldn't be sure.)

19 July Still plenty of stores.
1530. They also have a nest! 4 kids (one smallish); a good 14 to (FLED ~ 25 June). Could be banded anytime, although I wouldn't go much past 26 July.

21 July 1500. Banded the 4 kids (one probably won't make it; other 3 fine) in this 2nd nest.

30 August 930. still stores. More interestingly, a decent power struggle is going on! Wonder what's up & who bit the dust?

2001

30 March Noone in the traditional hole, but I checked it anyway: empty.

9 April 1300. Bird in traditional hole, but still empty!

2001
2002

Walter D Koenig

Melanerpes formicivorus

Lower Haystack — HNHR

16 April — 1130. Still zilch in the traditional hole.

30 April — 1100. First, there's apparently a new group over in the far side of the hill near the beginning of the chaparral trail; they were working on a hole that I opened but isn't done yet. Then, there's a bird in the traditional hole: 3 eggs, fresh! ① 25.0 × 20.2 ② 23.9 × 19.2 ③ 25.3 × 20.2.

Near (just below) box 205

5 May — 1530. Got lucky: 4 eggs, which means that egg #4 (25.1 × 20.3) is the last egg for sure.

15 May — 1520. 4 babies, ~3 d. Band ~2 June.

24 May — 900. Didn't open the hole, but I could hear the babies in there...

1 June — 1400. Banded the 4 kids. Plenty of stores, as one might expect.

17 July — 1330. Banded the 4 kids in nest #2 (new hole; tag 1119; see back).

2002

15 April — 1400. Plenty of stores. Also: a bird in the 2001 2nd nesthole (tag 1119).

16 April — 1500. Checked the hole: empty (but a bird in it again). Being deepened.

1 May — 1730. Bird in hole; checked it: still empty.

7 May — 1515. Noone in the hole, but I checked it anyway: empty.

21 May — 1700 Noone in the hole. Sheesh. Still stores, of course.

27 May — 1015. Noone in a hole, but 5-6 birds flew out

17 July 2001
2nd next

Lobata
Tag 1119
Dir 330°
Angle -35°
DNH 0.84m
Dead
Ht. 20'
Tree ht. 32'

2002
2003

Walter D Koenig

Melanerpes formicivorus

Lower Haystack — HNHR

(27 May) from the granary together when I walked up, suggestive of something going on here soon

1030. Checked the traditional hole in the granary in fine shape, but empty.

30 May 1345. Having not brought up the rope for once, there is finally a bird in the 2001 (new) hole. Plenty of stores remaining.

31 May 900. Birds in both the traditional hole in the granary and the 2001 hole, but both are still empty!

9 June 1515. Bird in the (new) 2001 hole. Maybe they finally have a nest here.

10 June 900. Opened up the hole: still empty!!

18 June 1430. Finally! 5 freshish eggs, in the traditional hole in the granary! EHD ~28 June

21 June 1345. Measured the 5 eggs, only 2 of which (maybe 3) look like they're developing.
① 23.6 × 18.8 ② 24.0 × 19.6 ③ 24.6 × 19.5
④ 24.0 × 19.6 ⑤ 24.3 × 19.3. Lots of stores here. (Calipers checked.)

26 June 1630. Checked nest: 2 babies, 4-5 do, + 3 unhatched & undeveloped eggs. Band ~12 July. Must have hatched very soon after I checked them on 21 June.

2003

7 April Lots of stores

23 April Fixed up the old limb in the granary so with normal

Melanerpes formicivorus

Lower Haystack HHHR

(28 April) work, it could be used again. (All but the bottom foot or so had fallen.)

17 May 915. Checked the fixup-old hole in the granary. Looks nice, but it's empty.

21 May 1730. Bird in a (new) hole in the crappy 2° snag! Will need a ladder for it, I fear.

22 May 1400. Bird in the new hole again: opened it up. 6 fresh eggs; hole tagged #5805. ① 25.8 × 19.0. ② 26.1 × 19.8 ③ 25.8 × 19.7 ④ 25.0 × 19.6 ⑤ 25.3 × 19.4 ⑥ 24.9 × 19.6.

3 June 1615. Still 6 eggs – fertile at least.

8 June 1300. Well I'm not sure what prompted me to say the eggs were fertile on the 3rd, because now all 6 are still in there, but 5 clearly did not develope and the 6th seems to have a hairline crack and be all dried out. Sheesh! There was noone in the hole, and I removed the eggs, which are clearly going nowhere. Lots of stores left, at least!

I opened that 6th egg – it was mostly dried up but did have a sac with a smallish embryo in it, so it (at least) was fertile.

14 June 715. Zilch over here.

3 July 1400. Bird in hole: 2 kids, 3-4 do + 3 infertile eggs (① 24.7 × 20.1 ② 24.5 × 20.0 ③ 25.2 × 19.1). Lots of stores still here.

29 Sept Lots (relatively) of stores here, some even fresh!

2004 Walter D Koenig

~~2005~~

Melanerpes formicivorus

Lower Haystack HNHP

12 May 1515. Bird in old hole in main granary! (The one I fixed up and put a fake top on): 4 freshish eggs! ① 23.1 × 19.5 ② 24.2 × 19.5 ③ 23.3 × 19.3 ④ 24.8 × 19.5. EHD ~ 21 May.

Lots of stored acorns here, even though they may be old.

24 May 1645. 1 baby, ~4-5 d, + 2 unhatched (and undeveloped) eggs. Band ~ 9 June.

9 June 1500. Banded the 1 kid here. Stores? Yes.

24 August lots of stored acorns still here.

2005

6 April Still lots of stores here. (See new sheet.)

2000 Walter D Koenig 1
2001

Melanerpes formicivorus

Gazebo HNHR

19 April 1430. Bird in hole (tree by pond; same as last year).

20 April 1345. Climbed to hole, pulling ♀2260 out from on the eggs, of which there were 6. Measured 2: ① 24.9 × 19.3 and ② 24.4 × 19.2. Incubated. EHD ~ 25 Apr. Still stores here.

18 May 930. Banded the 4 kids here. Lots of stores still.

13 June 2nd nest in same hole. Checked it: 5 eggs, incubated. I had a small peck hole in it and was essentially blown, while a second seemed partly dried up as well, leaving only 3 good eggs. One of them: 26.5 × 20.4. EHD ~ 17 June.

19 June 1145. 3 kids, 4-5 do. Band ~5 July.

4 July 1245. Banded the 3 kids. Still plenty of stores.

30 August Quite a few stores still.

2001

3 April 1400. Bird in the normal nest hole.

1645. Checked hole: empty but good.

5 May 1610. 3 birds in new hole in old nest tree to the S of the central area.

21 May Last week I watched roosting one night and saw lots of activity surrounding last year's nest hole. Then, on Friday 18 May, there was a bird in the same hole. So I expected the nest to finally be there. Today, however, I got here at 1215 only to find a Starling in the hole!! Did they start? Is a nest still there? Has the Starling destroyed it?

2001 Walter D Koenig
2002
2003

Melanerpes formicivorus

Gazebo HNHR

(21 May) To try and get some idea about these questions, I climbed up, finding that the Starlings had indeed made a start at filling the hole with grass. I cleaned it out, for whatever good that will do!

4 June 1115. Cleaned out the Starling nest and its 5 eggs from the traditional hole. Meanwhile, there's a bird in an old hole (whose keyhole cut has fallen out!) over in the central area. Definitely Starling problems here.

1500. Checked the hole (can just reach in!): 5 eggs, incubated. I measured one that was clearly rotten: 26.0 × 20.4; I removed this egg as well, leaving 4.

I also tried to make a new cutout for the hole.

13 June 1415. Checked the nest: 3 babies; I didn't feel anything else.

21 June 1045. Came to band the kids but nest is empty!!

2002

15 Apr 1330. Stores here. Bird in the hole over by the vernal pool.

16 Apr 1600. Checked the hole: 3 eggs, not fresh.

9 May 1300. Banded the 3 babies.

7 June Still stores.

2003

7 Apr Lots of stores. Noone in a hole.

2000
2001
2002

Walter D Koenig

1

Melanerpes formicivorus

Blomore

HNHR

9 May 900. Opened the new hole in the tree next to the granary: 1 runt egg (!)

17 May 1445. Checked the hole (noone in it): empty. Plenty of stores left here.

28 May 1015. 4 eggs, fresh. #1 (measured a few days ago with Joey) still there. Measured one more: 26.0 × 20.2.

Assuming we were here Thursday (25 May), they could still lay another egg. Otherwise, EHD ~ 8 June.

31 May 1000. Still 4 eggs. Should hatch 8 June.

9 June 1530. 4 kids, 3-4 do; 1 runtish but could make it. Band ~ 26 June.

26 June 1445. Banded the 3 kids. Still acorns here.

30 August Still some (old) stores.

2001

10 April 1100. Bird in 2000 nesthole (hole 1122): 3 eggs, pretty fresh.

16 April 1000. Still 3 eggs. Measured one: 25.2 × 19.8.

20 April 1000. 3 babies, ~2 do.

8 May 1030. Banded the 3 babies, #3381-3383.

4 June 1230. Bird in same hole: 4 eggs, incubated. (1) 24.7 × 19.7 (2) 26.0 × 20.2 (3) 26.0 × 20.2 (4) 27.6 × 19.2.

29 June 1100 Banded the 3 kids.

2002

15 April Still some stores, but noone in any holes.

30 April 1500. Reopened the very old hole high up in the tree they've been using recently: 3 incubated eggs. Old hole OK but not cleaned out at all.

2000 Walter D Koenig 1
2001

Melanerpes formicivorus

Blomthree HNHR

19 April 1445. Even without their main granary, there are a fair number of stores here. Noone in a hole, though.

17 May 1430. Bird in the hole (same one in old nest tree). 5 eggs, freshish. (It's vaguely possible there were more - I couldn't be sure; but I think I got them all. EHD ~ 27 May. Measured one: 25.9 × 19.2. Stores remaining here.

28 May 1030. Checked nest: 4 hatchlings + 1 unhatched (but pipped) egg that may still hatch. Band ~ 18 June.

16 June 1600. 4 kids in the nest, but 2 were long dead and extremely gross + stinky. We removed them and banded the 2 remaining kids, who are fine. Still stores here.

18 July Still stores.

25 Aug 700. Ambushed the new hole, but only got ♂2760 + a juv (3265).

30 August Still stores, by the way.

6 Sept. There's been a bird working on a new hole over at Dark Hollow, so tonight I ambushed there catching ♂2947 from here roosting by himself. Interesting, but unfortunately not terribly illuminating.

2001

21 May 1145. Finally a nest (Hole #1320; not in the traditional tree) that is probably these guys. 3 fairly fresh eggs. (2-3 d. inc) ① 23.6 × 18.2 ② 24.9 × 18.8 ③ 24.8 × 18.9.

14 June 1435. Banded the 2 kids.

2000
2001

Walter D Koenig

Melanerpes formicivorus

Los Arbolitas — HNHR

24 April 1130. Bird in the traditional hole. 4 eggs, fresh (EHD ~ 3 May) Measured 2: ① 25.1 × 19.6 ② 25.1 × 19.2. Plenty of stores here.

9 May 1015. 3 babies, 5-6 do, + 1 unhatched egg (25.1 × 19.7; possibly #1, above).

24 May Banded & bled the 3 kids. Stores: Yes.

18 July Plenty of stores still.

30 August Only a few stores left.

2001

16 April 1515. Opened new hole – which I think, but can't be sure – is LARB – it's just across the fence toward CV Pequito: 6 babies 4-5 days old + 2 unhatched eggs!! Need to find out what's up here, quickly. Are there 2 ♀♀??
Hole tagged #59.
The 2 eggs are: ① 25.7 × 18.3 ② 26.6 × 19.3

17 April 1915. Watched roosting. I saw both ♂(NV DK #3017 and ♂ DK/M #2095; ♂2095 roosted in the nest (he actually looked like -/M, but it must have been him).

18 April 1910. Tonight, ♂3017 came first but was then joined by ♂2095; both then stayed for the night, best I could tell (unless one left very late after I left.)

20 April 1400. Collected the 5 babies, now #3352-3356.

27 April 1600. Bird in traditional hole! 6 fresh eggs! ← LARB2!!
① 26.8 × 21.2 ② 25.6 × 20.1 ③ 23.2 × 18.7 ④ 26.3 × 20.1

2001 Walter D Koenig

Melanerpes formicivorus

Los Arbolitas HNHR

(27 April) ⑤ 25.8 × 20.0 ⑥ 25.5 × 20.0 ← No!? LARB2 ?!

Be careful: this could, I suppose, be CVCerande. If not, it sure is a fast renest!

1 May 1930. Watched roosting. 1st [♀] DB-am/DB # 2761 and then ♂ M/LBCK [def. "M"] # ~~2095~~ 3217 came, but then one (both? hope not) left noisily just as it was getting quite dark. I assume this was the ♀, leaving ♂ ~~2095~~ 3217 for the night.

See LRB2 4 May

Looks like this may be a new group: ♂ 3216 + 3217 budding off with ♀ 3148 from CVCerande — so not "Larb"'s renest. We'll tentatively call this group LARB2 (LAR2). (LRB2)

7 May 1315. Back here at LARB itself, there's a bird in the same hole (the F-troop tree), with a record-breaking 11 good eggs in it!! They were a few days incubated. Unfortunately I forgot my calipers so I couldn't measure them. Perhaps 3 ♀♀ laid here this time?

17 May 845. 8 babies ~ 2-3 dd + 2 unhatched eggs (1 clearly undeveloped). Band ~ 4 June

3 June 915. Bird in new hole in granary! (Note: prior nest failed for unknown reasons; see Joey's notes). [Joey watched roosting on 28 May and found the nest completely empty on 29 May].

4 June 1445. Opened hole (now tagged #1322): 10 eggs

2001 Walter D Koenig
2002

Melanerpes formicivorus

Los Arbolitas HNHR

(4 June) I a runt. Forgot to check whether they were incubated or not; I'd say probably not much.

10 June 2000. Must have failed again – noone showed the slightest interest in the hole tonight at roosting. Bummer.

21 June 1500. 4th attempt back in the original hole: 8 eggs 1-2 days incubated. I took half (4) to incubate ourselves just in case this time.

27 June 1900. Watched roosting: ♂ BIK/M #2095 roosted by himself for sure.

29 June 1030. With one of the eggs hatched, we returned them, taking blood from 3 hatchlings (inc the one we had) so we have something no matter what.
Band ~ 19 July.

18 July 1030. Banded the 4 kids.

2002

16 April 1620. Bird in the hole where they were finally successful last year. Needs to be checked!

17 April 1300. Opened the hole: 7 fresh eggs. I should watch here a bit and then take them.

19 April 730. Watching. 802. ♂ (N)/M (N)/DK #3017 enters.
915. Can't get anyone else. Collecting the eggs:
Here are 9 of them. Measured: ① 23.5 × 18.7 ② 23.7 × 19.0 ③ 25.4 × 19.3 ④ 25.7 × 19.6 ⑤ 23.6 × 19.1 ⑥ 23.8 × 18.7 ⑦ 23.5 × 18.8 ⑧ 25.1 × 19.4 ⑨ 24.2 × 19.5
Clearly 2 ♀♀; all eggs nice & fresh.

2002
2003

Walter D Koenig

Melanerpes formicivorus

LARB HNHR

(19 April) While getting the eggs into the incubator, I managed to knock the box onto the floor, breaking 5 of them. So we now only have 4 left. Good job, Walt.

24 May 845. Hatchlings in same nest hole: 6 of them. Band ~ 13 June.

5 June 1425. Watching. Babies definitely present. Still stores here also.

1500. One feed by a ♀, but I missed who it was

7 June 1025. Watching again.

1030. ♀ DB (WNCR)/M #3051

1105. In granary: ② ♀ DB/LWn-DB # 2761. In granary 1155 Res: ♀ DB-WN/DB

1115. At nest: ③ ♂ DB??/M # 2095.

1200. Giving up. It would appear as though all 4 breeders are here, even though I didn't see ♂ 3017 today. No sign of the helper. Actually, no real sign of a 4th bird at all, at least at the moment

12 June 800. Banded the 5 kids here.

21 June 1410. Watching ① ♂ DB-WN(N)/M DB-W(N)/BL # 3017. The 2nd ♂ is here for sure.

2003

7 April 1145. Bird in (new) hole (same tree on inside of fence). Lots of stores here.

17 April 1215. Noise in the hole here. Failed.

1430 Opened the hole: 5 hatchlings (1 ♂♂) + 3 unhatched but developed eggs. Band by 6 May.

7 May 1130. Banded the 3 kids here.

2001 | Walter D Koenig

Melanerpes formicivorus

Los Arbolitas 2 HNHR

4 May The birds nesting here in LARB's traditional hole turn out to be a new group – not LARB's nest!

Tonight I watched roosting and the events of 1 May were basically repeated. Partially In hindsight, here's what I think happened both nights:

① ♂ DB-WN / Blue #3216 (not the LARB ♀!) entered.

② ♂ M/Blk #3217 entered, after which 1 bird looked out and eventually left.

I assume that ♂3217, having come last, was the ♂ who stayed both nights, although it's impossible to be sure.

5 May 1630. Took the eggs.

17 May 915. New nest! 7 fresh eggs ① 24.8 × 20.5 ② 25.5 × 20.0 ③ 25.1 × 20.4 ④ 25.6 × 20.8 ⑤ 25.8 × 20.5 ⑥ 24.1 × 20.0 ⑦ 24.7 × 20.4.

18 May 1945. Watched roosting: [♂] DB-WN / LB #3216 roosted by himself for sure.

28 May 1945. Again, it was [♂] Blue-WN / Blue #3216 in the nest by himself tonight. Noone else came or was at all interested.

30 May 1130. 6 babies, ~4 do. Band 6/16. One was such a runt that I took him for tissue, leaving 5.

14 June 1430. Banded the 5 kids here. Stores? Not sure where to look! Joey found a modest number spread around!

2002 Walter D Koenig

Melanerpes formicivorus

LARB2 HNWR

19 April 900. Bird in hole.

25 April 845. Watching from blind.

1015. Zilch. I give up. Going to check the hole.

4 eggs! Not all that fresh. Guess I'll have to try again.

26 April 1207. Back for another try. ~~Cool~~ Cold & cloudy out.

1229. ♂ M/Blk #3217 entered.

1253. ♂ left.

1316. ♂ 3217 again; entered.

1352. ♂ wn/M #3533 came to hole; didn't enter. ♂ 3217 still inside, I believe.

1408. ♂ 3217 left.

1411. ♀ Red-wn/M ? came, left w/o entering. Is this ♀ 3117? Bands old; but how could I mistake the M band?

1417. ♂ 3217 enters yet again.

1420. Leaving. No sign of ♂ #2, unfortunately.

27 April 1920. Watched roosting. Saw ♂ wn/M #3533, ♂ M/Blk #3217, and a 3rd bird ? LB-or/Blk [2855], plus a 4th unid bird; all of these may very well have spent the night in the nest (♂ 3217 certainly did). No definite sign of ♂ 3216 yet, however.

* The most likely candidate for the unknown bird would seem to be ♂ 2855 from LARB (via DKHW) HNWR, who is, in fact, an older brother of ♂ 3216/3217! So there may be 2 ♂♂ breeders here after all!

25 Apr?

845. Watching. Bird in hole. Left?
1015. Zilch. Nobody ever came.

2002
2003
2004

Walter D Koenig

Melanerpes formicivorus

LARB 2 HINHR

24 May 830. Checked nest (assuming we would band kids) only to find 4 incubated eggs, which I measured: ① 24.0 × 20.2 ② 23.3 × 21.1 ③ 25.3 × 21.4 ④ 25.8 × 21.1. Presumed timeline: hatch ~ 27 May, band ~ 16 June.

5 June 1305. Watching. No noise from nest - has it failed?
1405. Zilch.

12 June 800. Checked hole: empty. 2nd failure for these guys!

2003

7 April Bird in traditional hole.

17 April 1200. Finally opened the hole: empty. Early nest failed? Who knows? Could have been anything, or nothing.

7 May 1145. Bird in hole: 5 eggs, incubated. ① 22.5 × 18.3 (not developed) ② 24.6 × 19.4 (not developed) ③ 24.6 × 20.0 ④ 24.9 × 20.4 ⑤ 24.8 × 20.4.
Hatch ~ 10 May; band ~ 31 May.

29 May 1100. Banded and bled the 3 kids here

2004

4 May 1330. Bird in hole: empty.

11 May 1500. Bird in traditional hole again: 4 fresh eggs ① 24.3 × 20.5 ② 24.3 × 20.2 ③ 24.7 × 20.5 ④ 25.6 × 20.1

11 June 1500. Banded + bled the 2 kids here.

25 Sept 1400. Bird in hole; checked it: empty.

2000 Walter D Koenig
2001

Melanerpes formicivorus

CVGrande — HNHR

9 May — Still some stores here in the limbs we put up. Noone in any holes, though!

18 May — 1015. Opened the lower (connected) hole in the forest blue oak up toward Gazebo that Joey saw a bird in yesterday: nice shape, but empty.

22 June — Opened the new hole over by the trough where there was a bird yesterday, but it's empty.

18 July — They would appear to be out of acorns

6 Sept. — Bird in the hole opened back on 22 June. A nest, finally?

7 Sept. — 1400. Checked it (bird in hole again): empty!

2001

3 April — 1415. Bird in the new hole (opened 22 June 00).

6 April — 930. Checked the hole: nice but empty.

16 April — 1630. Bird in hole this morning, but still empty!

7 May — 1400. Bird in live oak hole. Time to open it!

8 May — 1400. Noone in the live oak hole, but I opened it anyway: nice shape, but empty.

14 May — 1600. There are 5 eggs (incubation status unknown) in the "new hole" opened in June 2000. The only question is: is this CVGrande or LARB2? There are still birds hanging around (but not in) the Live Oak hole, who I think are CVGrande birds. We'll see.

Answer: CVGrande

22 May — 1315. 4 babies, ~4 do. Band ~6 June (a tad early!)

7 June — 1545. Banded the 4 kids here. There are some stores here.

2001 Walter D Koenig

Melanerpes formicivorus

CV Segundo HNHR

21 May 940. 4 eggs: ① 23.2 × 19.0 ② 23.2 × 18.4 ③ 22.9 × 19.3 ④ 23.4 × 19.0. Joey reported 3 on Friday (5/18), so EHD = 30 May.

Lance is watching to see who these guys are. The nest (hole 1318) is in a live oak across the creek well within historical CV Grande area.

21 June 1500. Banded the 3 kids.

2000
2001

Walter D Koenig

Melanerpes formicivorus

Murf — MNHR

20 April — 1415. Checked nest: 4 babies, ~1 do, + 1 unhatched (possibly pipping) egg. Band ~ 10 May. (Don't forget the NOBA here!) Plenty of stores here.

12 May — 1400. Banded and bled the 2 kids here.

31 May — Still plenty of stores. Noone in a hole, though.

6 June — 1200. Bird in (same) hole.

9 June — 1800. Checked the hole: 4 eggs, pretty fresh. (EHD: 17 June). Measured one: 27.0 × 20.5 mm.

19 June — 1100. All 4 kids hatched, 2-3 do. Band ~ 6 July.

4 July — 1330. Banded the 3 kids. Still stores.

2001

16 April — 1040. Power struggle activity up here; a fairly substantial one. Something's up.

21 May — 1130. Bird in hole! 4 eggs, incubated. Measured one: 26.7 × 21.2.

The hole is not last year's; it's in the tree above it. It's been opened, so it's an old hole, presumably from the early or mid 90's.

14 June — 1500. Banded the 4 kids.

2000 Walter D Koenig 1
2001

Melanerpes formicivorus

CVI HNHR

20 April 1430. Bird in hole (new hole in VO where I ambushed last fall). 4 eggs, 2-3 days. EHD: 29 April.
Measured 2: ① 25.2×18.2 ② 22.9×17.5.
Plenty of stores here.

22 May 1200. Stores: Yes. Sign of a nest: no.

28 May Cleared out a starling nest with small kids in their April nest hole (!) Last night a bird was roosting over in the sycamore by the creek, but no sign of interest there today.
1100. Opened the new hole in the sycamore partway (there was a bird in it again), but it appears to be empty.

13 June 1230. Finally got it - a new hole (now #120) in the sycamore facing up toward Blonthree but much higher than the old hole. (on other side of limb and a tad lower than the pair of holes).
Apparently opens to upper hole (2 entrances)
4 eggs, fresh. Measured one: 23.8 × 18.2.

24 June 1515. Bird in the hole, but it's empty! Failed again! Hole is in a limb 4 hands around, by the way.

2001 CVIA

4 May 1445. Opened the new hole they're working on in a spindly VO next to the sycamore, but it's empty.

7 May 1345. Birds in both the new hole and last year's sycamore hole.

8 May 1400. Birds in both holes again, so I checked them both! Last year's hole is in OK shape but empty. The new (el crappo) hole has 5 fresh eggs (EHD 18 May). ① (see next page)

CVIA →

2001 Walter D Koenig

Melanerpes formicivorus

CVI → CVIA HNHR

(8 May) ① 23.6 × 18.8 ② 23.2 × 19.2 (I only measured two).

21 May 1000. 2 babies, 1-2 do, + 1 egg that had a big hole in it and was empty but clearly didn't succesfully hatch, that measured 23.6 × 19.4.

Band ~9 June.

8 June 1500. This group turns out not to be CVI (who has a nest in the sycamore next door) but a new group I'm calling CVIA. Today I banded their 2 babies. They even have a few acorns stored up there.

This nest is literally ~30m from the CVI nest!

2001 | Walter D Koenig

Melanerpes formicivorus

CVI HNHR

27 June 1550. Bird in old hole in granary (tagged #299): checked it → empty but almost ok.

2000
2001

Walter D Koenig

Melanerpes formicivorus

CV2 HNHR

22 April 1515. Checked the nest, which is in the older of the holes used in recent years (no tag). 7 eggs (1 a runt); incubated. (EHD: 27 April). Measured 1: 25.8 × 20.4.

17 May 1400. Banded & bled the 5 kids. Lots of acorns left.

2001 [see OK Corral notes for 28 Jan ambush]

24 April 1400. Bird in new hole in traditional tree.

25 April 1100. Opened the hole: shallow, empty, but probably useable. Meanwhile, I cleared out a Starling nest from one of their old holes.

14 May 1500. Finally found the hole, which is in the granary and was hidden by foliage; it's now marked #1319 (it's basically right above the gate). There are 5 incubated eggs.

21 May 1030. 3 babies ~2 do. Band ~9 June.

2000 Walter D Koenig
2001

Melanerpes formicivorus

OK Corral HNHR

22 May Still stores but no sign of a nest. Checked hole #265: had a handful of moss in it plus some other miscellaneous stuff, but otherwise in good shape and easily cleared out.

13 June 1245. Still stores. Noone in any holes, as usual. Worst case scenario: there were 5 birds over in trees by the creek across from CV2 - one adult appeared to be a NOBA...! They also included a couple of kids, I think. They could have been CV2 (and I could have been mistaken about the NOBA) but then again, maybe they nested down there somewhere and we missed them entirely. Who knows?

18 July Still nothing, but at least they seem to be out of stores, if that means anything.

CV2 2001

28 January Finally ambushed here in hopes of getting some kits from the 2nd (missed) nest. Got 4 (all in the 2000 1st nest hole) but they's all banded.

CV2 NOT OK Corral!

2000 Walter D Koenig

Melanerpes formicivorus

MPHF HNHR

20 April 1300. Lots of stores, noone in any holes. (Starling in last year's hole.)

2 May 900. Noone in any holes.

22 May 1130. Plenty of stores. Birds hanging out in traditional tree, but the hole is empty.

31 May 1415. Checked around and watched for awhile, but saw nothing.

1418. ! Bird up the field a ways...?

6 June 1030. Went up to a (new) hole where a bird was roosting last night, but no sign of any activity.

13 June 1500. Birds have been at that new hole a couple of times, so I opened it, only to find that it connects to the old hole below it whose back had partly fallen out years ago. So I pieced a back together just in case they really would like to use it. It is empty, by the way.

21 August 1630. Came here to set ambushes only to discover a nest in the traditional hole! 6 kids, 4-5 do! (I collected the runty 6th, who is #3306) Guess I'll catch the NOBA ♀ at the nest!

Lots of stores left here.

31 August 1110. Going for the NOBA. Watching the nest.

1134. ♀ M/ Blk-Wh(N) ?? Starting with a Mystery.

1200. ♂ Red-DB1/M #3027 Seen well.

1205. ♂ RM / Wh-LB or / DB-Wh(N) #1962. Finally a known bird.

1220. ♀ NOBA. Got her. Now #3307. Going home to see if I can ID the other 2 birds...

2000
2001
2002

Walter D Koenig

Melanerpes formicivorus

MPHF — MNHR

6 Sept. 1100. Banded and bled the 5 kids here. All quite small, but could all make it. Lots of stores still.

2001

23 April 1600. Bird in traditional hole: 2 fresh eggs. Apparently still laying. Marked and measured them: ① 26.2 × 20.1 ② 24.9 × 19.6.

27 April 1400. 10 eggs! Measured 2 more: ③ 25.6 × 20.2 ④ 25.9 × 20.0. Eggs 1 & 2 still there.

2 May 1030. Still 10 eggs.

9 May 1030. 8 babies ~1-2 do + 2 unhatched eggs. Band ~ 30 May.

30 May 1600. Banded the 8 kids here!

27 June 1500. 2nd nest in (different) hole: 6 eggs, fairly fresh. Could still be laying, I suppose.

13 July 1730. 4 babies, ~7 do. Band ~ 27 July.

27 July 1200. Banded the 3 kids that made it.

2002

16 April 1100. Lots of stores. Bird in the traditional hole: eight incubated eggs. An experimental group, perhaps.

2x ♂1962 roosted in nest

1900. Roosting. ♂ M/UN-? #1962 roosted for sure.

↗ ♂ M/UN-Dker

17 April 1900. Definitely ♂1962 again in the nest.

18 April 1100. Took the 8 eggs. ♀3307 on the nest. This is exp. #2 for the year.

Melanerpes formicivorus

MPHF HNMR

(18 April) Measured the eggs before consigning them to the incubator: ① 26.3 × 20.6 ② 25.2 × 19.6 ③ 24.7 × 19.1 ④ 25.7 × 19.7 ⑤ 24.5 × 19.7 ⑥ 24.7 × 19.5 ⑦ 24.6 × 19.3 ⑧ 25.7 × 19.4

19 April Processed 2 of the eggs (3643-3644) but they weren't really very close to hatching.

23 April 3 of the remaining eggs hatched! Processed the lot.

29 April 1605. New nest in the (other) traditional tree: 4 eggs so far.

2 May 1200. Checked the nest: 9 eggs. Presumably this is the last day of egg-laying; EHD = 13 May

6 May 1545. Peeped the nest: still 9 eggs, all normal best I could tell.

16 May 1315. 7 babies ~3 do + 1 unhatched egg (presumably 8 hatched) Band ~3 June, but I'd come back in 2-3 days and try to bleed these guys just in case.

17 May 1940 Watched roosting: Red-DB/M #3027 roosted, definitely. No other action at the hole

22 May 1940. Again, it was definitely Or-DB/M #3027 who roosted. Noone else even came to the hole.

24 May 1000. Kids are only 11 do, but just to be on the safe side we banded all 7 of them today.

3 June 1500. Checked the nest: 6 kids, which is how many presumably will fledge. The missing one: 1142-20095.

22 August Still lots of (red) stored acorns here.

2003 Walter D Koenig
2004

Melanerpes formicivorus

MPHF HNHR

8 April 1000 Lots of stores, but noone in any holes

20 April 1500. Bird in old hole in tree up toward UPHF: 5 fresh eggs, 1 of which is a runt.
Note: this is another group with no breeder ♂♂(!); so we should check it out sooner rather than later.

26 April 1000 Checked nest. 9 eggs (1 a runt). Should hatch ~ 3 May.

5 May 1300. Just hatching: 2 kids, maybe 1 ♂♂, + 7 unhatched eggs. Band ~26 May.

26 May 1030. Banded the 2 kids. Lots of stores

6 June 1430. Opened new hole (now tagged 5612) in the granary tree (with the "traditional" hole): 8 incubated eggs. (no runts).

14 June 1115. 5 kids ~ 3 ♂♂, + 3 unhatched & undeveloped eggs. Band ~ 2 July.

30 June 1500. Banded the 5 kids in the 2nd nest. Lots of stores still. Is this really an incest group?

2004

20 April 1315. Bird in last year's (1st) nesthole: checked it: empty! Stores here - from 2002??

11 May 1045. 8 eggs! 5 developing, 2 not developing, 1 a runt. Incubated; could hatch in a few days.

18 May 1230. 4 kids, 3-4 ♂♂, + 2 unhatched eggs (runt gone). Band ~ 4 June

31 May Justyn helped me catch a ♂ here for blood, then I banded the 4 kids.

24 Aug Very few stores left, may actually have run out!

2004 Walter D Koenig

Melanerpes formicivorus

MPHF HWHR

12 Sept 1430. Nest! 2 kids, ~15 do, in old hole up toward Upper PHF.
Measured their 3rd primaries (see back)

20 Sept 1330. Banded the 2 kids!

23 Sept. 1330. Measured the kids again.

24 Sept. 1430. Ambushed a ♂ helper (♂3624) feeding; then got blood from him & the kids. Also measured them again
↳ for stable isotopes.

		1st	2nd	3rd
4019	Sheath	18	18	10
	Whole	46	42	76
4020	Sheath	18	22	18
	Whole	35	27	72

25 Sept 1400. Checked nest again. 4019 was gone, presumably fledged!

4020	Sheath	23	19	20
	Whole	38	23	76

Primary size

			1st	2nd	3rd
9/12 1430	①	Sheath	2.8	3.3	18.2
		Whole feather	10.1	12.2	24.1
	②	Sheath	~~2.8~~ 9.9	13.7	15.8
		Whole feather	~~10.1~~ (not out yet)		19

I bet there weren't the 101.

2nd & 3rd primaries are much smaller and much thinner than the others

			1st	2nd	3rd
9/20 1330	① 4019	Sheath	18 (Both thick)	26	16
		Whole	27	23	62
	② 4020	Sheath	17 (Now thick)	15 (still thin) Not the right one.	21
		Whole	17	~~20~~ Must have messed up!	55

			1st	2nd	3rd
9/23 1330	① 4019 WC=102	Sheath	18	19	11
		Whole	40	38	72
	② 4020 WC=93	Sheath	18	15 Now thick	16
		Whole	29	(15)	68

2000 Walter D Koenig

Melanerpes formicivorus

Y2K HNHR

Jan. Still haven't figured out who they are, but there is a new group here in PHF storing in the small valley oak up on the hill (see map on back).

22 April 900. New hole in granary (lots of acorns still). 1 egg, marked #1. Hole #1349.

2 May 900. Checked hole: No eggs. Ambusher still set.

9 May 1000. Bird in the hole across the road in the LO snag!

22 May Still stores. Noone around, though.

14 June 1400. Checked the hole: 5 kids, 1-2 ♂♂.

23 June 1030 Finally caught one (?) of the ♀♀ feeding at the nest.

1115. Got one of the ♂♂. Definitely a 2nd ♀ here also (still NOBA).

All for now. At least the nest can be watched.

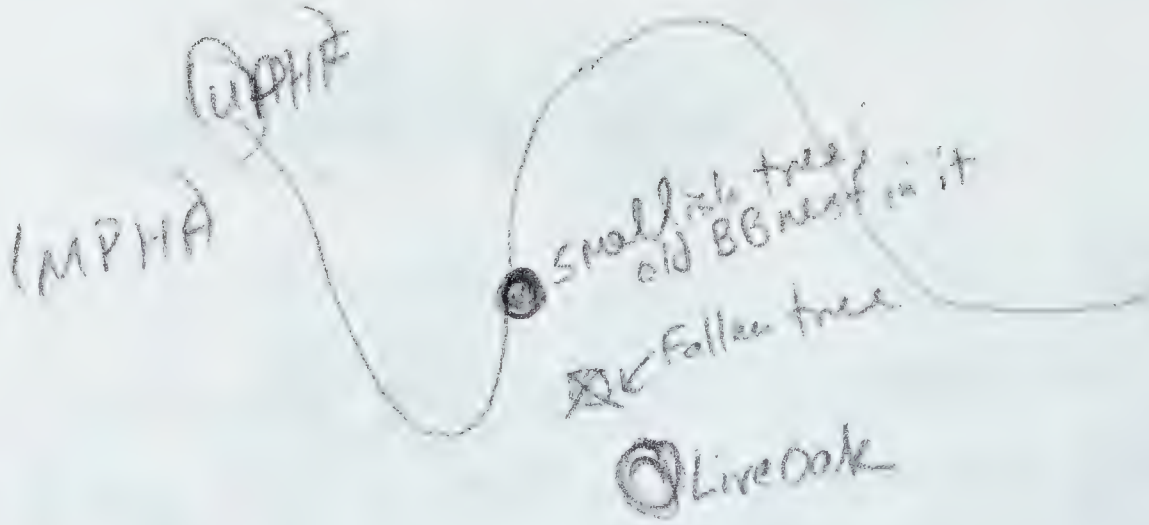
26 June 1045. Got the 2nd ♂. Will go for the ♀.

1200! Missed the NOBA ♀! Bummer. Stuck a band on & bled the 5 kids. She'll have to wait.

29 June 550. Got her! Now 4 banded. But! Just before she fed, yet another NOBA ♂ came to the nest! So there's still 1 bird to go (and hopefully only 1 bird).

3 July 1130. Banded the 2 kids that are left (!) Both had moved into the big hole! Still a NOBA ♂ to go.

4 July Giving up; will have to try and see who's roosting in the nest.



42K - Storing in the Smallish Valley Oak with the old BB cavity

2000
2001

Walter D Koenig

Melanerpes formicivorus

Y2K

HNHR

(4 July) Joey reminded me that this group was probably here last year. In other words, one or more of the 5 birds could easily be kids from last year. Perhaps DNA will clear all this up, at least if we ever catch that last ♂!

I checked across the road and found no stores. Unless they have some over closer to the nest, they're out.

5 July 500. Ambushed the nest, nabbing - yes - the NOBA ♂, now #3293! Got 'em all, finally.

So, as an added bonus, ♂3293 spent the night in the nest. (I checked and there was noone else except the 2 kids in the hole.)

30 August No stores left, best I can tell.

2001

17 April 1400. Bird in Valley Oak Hole: 4 eggs, incubated. This hole (#1349) was the aborted 2000 nest.

25 April 945. 4 babies, ~4 do. Band ~ 12 May.

2 May 1000. Set an ambusher. Nest OK!

9 May 1015. Set to catch the NOBA(s).

1300. Gave up.

10 May 1505. Back again for another try.

1630. Got her! Banded her and the 4 kids.

4 June 1730. Checked last year's hole (#285 - in the snag) but zilch.

11 June 1430. Again: no nest in last year's hole.

2001
2002
2003

Walter D Koenig

Melanerpes formicivorus

YZK HNHR

27 June 1515. 2nd nest in same hole: 4 babies ~8 do. Band ~ 10 July.

13 July 1400. Banded the 1. kid (!) → #3600!

2002

16 April 1030. Lots of acorns left. Bird in 2001 hole: 4 fresh eggs. Measured: ① 27.0 × 20.3 ② 25.4 × 19.2 ③ 24.9 × 19.1 ④ 25.7 × 19.2. Eggs marked.

29 April 1600. Checked nest: 3 babies, ~4 do, + 1 unhatched egg, apparently infertile. Band ~ 16 May. Egg unhatched is: 26.5 × 19.0. (!!?) Are my measurements all screwed up? Doesn't seem likely that this is a 5th egg...

16 May 1300. Banded the 3 kids here. Still stored acorns

22 August 1300. No stores left here.

2003

8 April Bird in hole. Stores: Yes. 1600 4 fresh eggs: ① 27.4 × 19.5 ② 25.9 × 19.4 ③ 25.7 × 18.8 ④ 27.6 × 19.3.

20 April 1445. 1 hatching + 3 unhatched eggs. It's day 0, it would appear!

26 April 1015. 1 baby ~7 do + 3 unhatched & underdeveloped eggs. Bummer! This is hole #1349, by the way. Lots of stores here. Band ~10 May.

5 May 1345. Nest empty! Another weather casualty, perhaps. Having only a single kid probably didn't help.

21 May 1235. Checked the hole - turns out the piece of

2003
2004

Walter D Koenig

Melanerpes formicivorus

42K HNHR

(21 May) wood I'd put in to block off the 2nd entrance had slipped into the hole blocking the 1st entrance and the cavity itself! I fixed it up. Lots of stores here.

11 June 1700. Finally found a bird in a new hole in the old Live Oak by the road where LPHF used to rest. Opened it. 5 kids, ~4 do. Band ~ 28 June.

26 June 1530 Banded & bled the 5 kids. Stores? You betcha.

2004

20 April 1300. Noone in a hole, but still stores here — presumably left over from fall 2002.

19 May 1000. 4 eggs in hole tagged #1349. A couple days incubated. ① 27.4 × 19.5 ② 27.6 × 18.9 ③ 28.1 × 18.5 ④ 29.3 × 18.7. EHD ~ 27 May.

30 May 1340. 2 kids, ~4 do, + 2 unhatched (but developed, I think), eggs. Band ~ 16 June.

15 June 730. Set up to catch someone for SI analysis. 830. Got a ♀ (1395) Then banded the 2 kids. Still stores here.

24 Aug Out of stores.

2000
2001

Walter D Koenig

Melanerpes formicivorus

Stromberg — ANHR

18 April — 1345. Stores: yes. Bird in hole: yes. The (old) upper one. So I climbed up, only to discover (1) it's too deep to reach the bottom and (2) the back has fallen out. Because of the latter, I assume, based on no evidence, that they aren't nesting there. But I nailed one of my old gloves to block the hole, so maybe they will! The lower (new) hole looks quite good, by the way, but needs opening if they use it.

3 May — 1245. Opened the lower (new) hole, now #1148. 3 eggs, incubated (EHD ~ 8 May). Measured 1:25.4×19.3

12 May — 1420. 3 kids, 3-4 do. Band 29 May.

30 May — 1330. Banded + bled the 3 kids.

31 August — 1000. Bird in hole! Checked it: 4 eggs, incubated! EHD: ~ 3 Sept.

5 Sept. — 1400. Just hatching: 3 hatchlings + 1 egg, which still could hatch. Band ~ 26 Sept.

21 Sept. — 1515. Banded the kids here (all 3).

2001

12 April — 1115. Bird in upper hole! Climbed, but this is the one with the glove (partially) covering the cut in back so I didn't check it, I only patched up the glove. Meanwhile, I did check the lower hole (#1148) finding it filled with >3" of crappy water. I cleaned it out as best I could, but it's still kind of crumby (wet) at the bottom.

Melanerpes formicivorus

Stromberg HNHR

17 April 1300. Bird in high (covered with the glove!) hole again, so I checked it this time: 4 eggs, incubated!

22 April 1920. Finally managed to watch roosting here: 2 birds went in; one was [♀] M/Lgnt – 2757 and the other was [♂] (N)/(N) Yel/ #2762. Only one bird left, so I imagine that was the ♀, leaving ♂2762 in for the night.

23 April 1920. I saw 3 birds enter: ♀3228, ♂2997 (both helpers) and ♂2762 (the breeder). I couldn't be certain about who left (at least 2 did), but since ♂2762 was the only breeder ♂ involved, I have to suspect that he spent the night in the nest.

24 April 1600. Collected the 4 babies, the largest of which weighed 20.4 g (~5 days old). They are now #3357-3360. ELED = 8 April; hatched 19 April).

5 May Power struggle here! Mark even found a NOBA ♀ dead on the ground below one of the trees. ♂2913

Watched for a bit: saw ♂2762, ♂2802, ♂2997 – the ♂♂ are OK. But lots of ♀♀, inc. > 1 NOBA, ♀ M/Wh Wh/DB #3180 (from Gate), and ♀ Bk/Bk 1M #3124. Apparently ♀2757 is gone, I fear. Too bad! Lots of activity!

♀3180 + ♀ B/B 1M 3124 are the 2 that are with the ♂♂ in the main trees all the time – clearly

2001 Walter D Koenig 3
2002

Melanerpes formicivorus

Stromberg HNHR

(5 May) winning, at least at the moment.

30 May 1100. Finally got the nerve to open the new hole in the other sycamore (hole #1325): 6 inc. eggs. Measured one: 25.0 × 19.0. EHD: who knows, but probably soon (say 6/3).

6 June 1200. Checked the nest: 5 babies, ~3-4 do. Band ~ 23 June.

19 June 2015 The rooster tonight was [redacted] w/M #2913

21 June 1600. Banded the 5 kids, one of whom (the runt) I took home.

2002

11 April 1430. Bird in upper hole: empty (has gone down to connect with hole below it). Meanwhile, the low hole (#1148) was full of water and the back had fallen out. I fixed it as best I could. This is all in the nice sycamore.

24 April 1430. Checked all the holes (mostly by peeping, so it's not absolute), since birds have been in them, but they all seem to be empty. The middle hole (the only one not opened) is perhaps the most likely candidate, I think, for the nest.

30 April 1515. Bird in (unopened) middle hole. Time to get back up and check it.

1 May 1500. Bird in both the 2 lower holes. The lowest (tagged 1148) is filled with water (again). The middle hole, which I opened, is empty but in good shape.

7 May 1030. Middle hole (tagged #5338): 4 eggs.

Melanerpes formicivorus

Stromberg HNHR

7 May 1945. At roosting tonight, 1 bird only came and went in; my visual on him was Yel-DB/Yel-DB, which comes closest to being ♂2913 (Or-LB/Or-DB). The only issue with him is that he was last seen 8 March. If he's no longer here, I guess I'd have to go for ♂2802 (DB-Wh/Wh-DB); if there was a bit of space between the bands, it would come close.

8 May Doug, in 6 hrs of watching, has seen neither of those ♂♂! Instead, he's only seen ♂2762, who I have to admit could also have been the bird who roosted last night. In any case, I need to check with Devin, but it would appear as though there may only be 1 ♂ here!!

17 May 1215. After ignoring these guys for 9 days, I realized I should check the nest, so I did, and found it empty! Bummer.
By the way, there are stores left.

29 May 1600. Birds in (same) hole again: 5 eggs, incubated. EHD ~ 2 June. ① 23.8 × 19.1 ② 23.2 × 19.7 ③ 22.8 × 19.3 ④ 23.8 × 20.0 ⑤ 23.7 × 19.8 (calipers checked).

3 June 1430. 5 nestlings, ~3-4 do (1 runtish; others will probably make it). Band ~ 20 June.

4 June 1730. Found ♀2772 - the breeder - DOR on the road in front of Stromberg's. Bummer

2002 Walter D Koenig
2003

Melanerpes formicivorus

Stromberg HNHR

12 June 1515. Checked hole: empty, even though there was a bird in it when I got there. Perhaps the new NOBA ♀ did them in after all. There are stores still here, by the way.

4 July 945. Devin reported activity here so I checked the holes, and darn if there aren't 4 inc eggs in the middle hole! (Same one as used earlier.) Sheesh!

22 August No stores here, but lots of activity — could prob be a power struggle (or maybe it's at Westgate?)

2003

18 April 1530. Bird in hole! (same middle one as in 2002)

21 April 1615. 4 freshish eggs ① 25.7 × 18.6 ② 23.8 × 18.6 ③ 24.3 × 18.5 ④ 22.8 × 18.2.

5 May 1330. Hole empty! Perhaps a casualty of the very rainy weather we've been having. The low hole (#1148) is packed full of acorns, by the way.

14 May 1400. Bird in hole (#5558 again): 3 eggs, pretty fresh. Still laying? EHD ~ 25 May ① 26.6 × 19.5 ② 25.0 × 18.2 ③ 25.1 × 18.2

27 May Joey climbed: 4 translucent eggs! Yet a 3rd nest? Or another all infertile clutch?

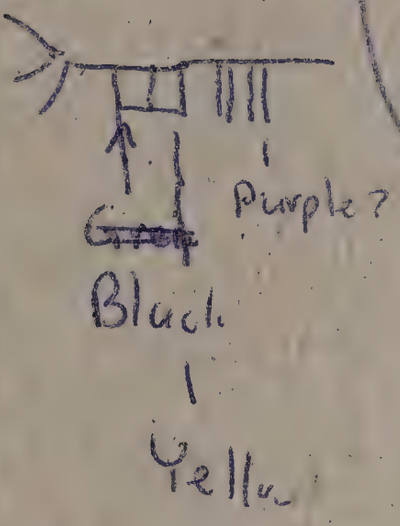
4 June 1630. 4 kids, 2-3 do! Excellent. Band ~ 22 June. Stores left: yes.

21 June 1200. Banded the 4 kids. Stores: yes.

♀ - Left

1959

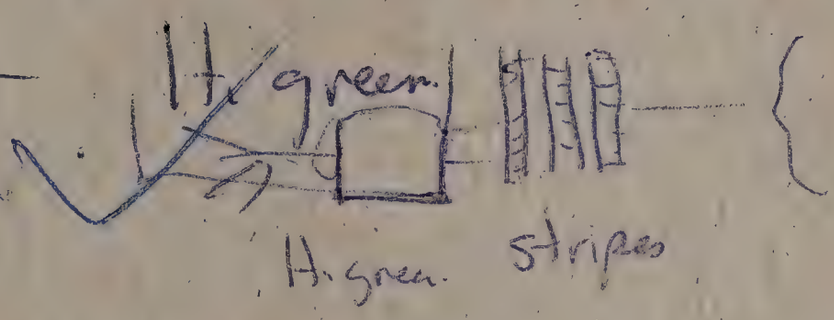
4/15



Strombergcrop

♀ - left -

3/75



M. K. Stromberg

5/31/04

Heartbeats
Cleveland, Ohio
800-808-1991

2001 Walter D Koenig

Melanerpes formicivorus

Stromberg 2 HNHR

26 June Not sure if anything's up here (this group split off from Stromberg after the experiment). But Jen thought they had a nest in the sycamore (the usual Stromberg tree) so I checked, but both holes are empty.

2003 Walter D Koenig

Melanerpes formicivorus

Stromberg Z HNHR

21 May 1230. Bird in hole in sycamore next to the gate.
1600. Got to the hole (need the 40' ladder and some guts): 1 fresh egg: egg marked.
Hole tagged 5804.

27 May 1015. Checked hole: empty! Bummer!

2000
2001
2002

Walter D Koenig

Melanerpes formicivorus

Westgate

HNHR

18 April 1315. Lots of stores. Noone in any holes, though.

8 May 1300. Used lots of ladders to get to the low hole in the bad limb (tagged 277) where there are 4 incubated eggs. EHD ~ 12 May. Band ~ 2 June.

2 June Banded the 4 kids. Plenty of stores left here.

30 August Apparently out of stores here, or at least very much on their last legs.

2001

7 May 1430. At last: bird in last year's hole!

25 May 1945. 1st, a bird who I saw as ?yel-Red/M came and stayed for a couple of minutes; who is this bird? Then Or/M #2773 came for the night. Note that I didn't see him really well, but I saw Or and thought I got a glimpse of the M band so I'm pretty sure it was him.

30 May Joey and I got up here finally and banded the 3 kids, who are young but not that young.

2002

22 August 1315. There would appear to be a power struggle going on here at last. Also, there are a few ♂♂ stores left.

25 Sept. Ambush tonight in the new hole nabbed only ♀3447 - the helper ♀ from 2001. Several NOBA ♀♀ here were missed entirely!

14 Oct. Ambushed tonight: the 2 ♂♂ + 2 NOBA ♀♀.

2003
2004

Walford Koenig

Melanerpes formicivorus

Westgate HUNTER

30 April 1700. Bird in new hole high up in the sycamore! Stores here yes. The old hole (#277) has a starling in it, by the way.

1 May 1600. Climbed up (way up) and opened the new hole: 7 eggs, incubated. ① 27.7 × 19.5 ② 25.7 × 19.7 ③ 25.5 × 20.0 ④ 28.5 × 19.5 ⑤ 26.0 × 18.8 ⑥ 24.5 × 19.8 ⑦ 30.5 × 18.7. Wow! 2 ♀♀ here, it would seem; that lays giant eggs, and the other not!

9 May 1700. Checked the hole: 6 kids, ~3 day old, + 1 messed up egg. Band ~ 27 May.

27 May 1200 Banded the 5 kids. Acorns? Definitely.

6 June Danika found ♀3763, the 2nd of the breeder ♀♀ here, dead on the road today. That's both of them in the past 2 weeks. Time to fix those posts out there (ie get rid of the wooden ones).

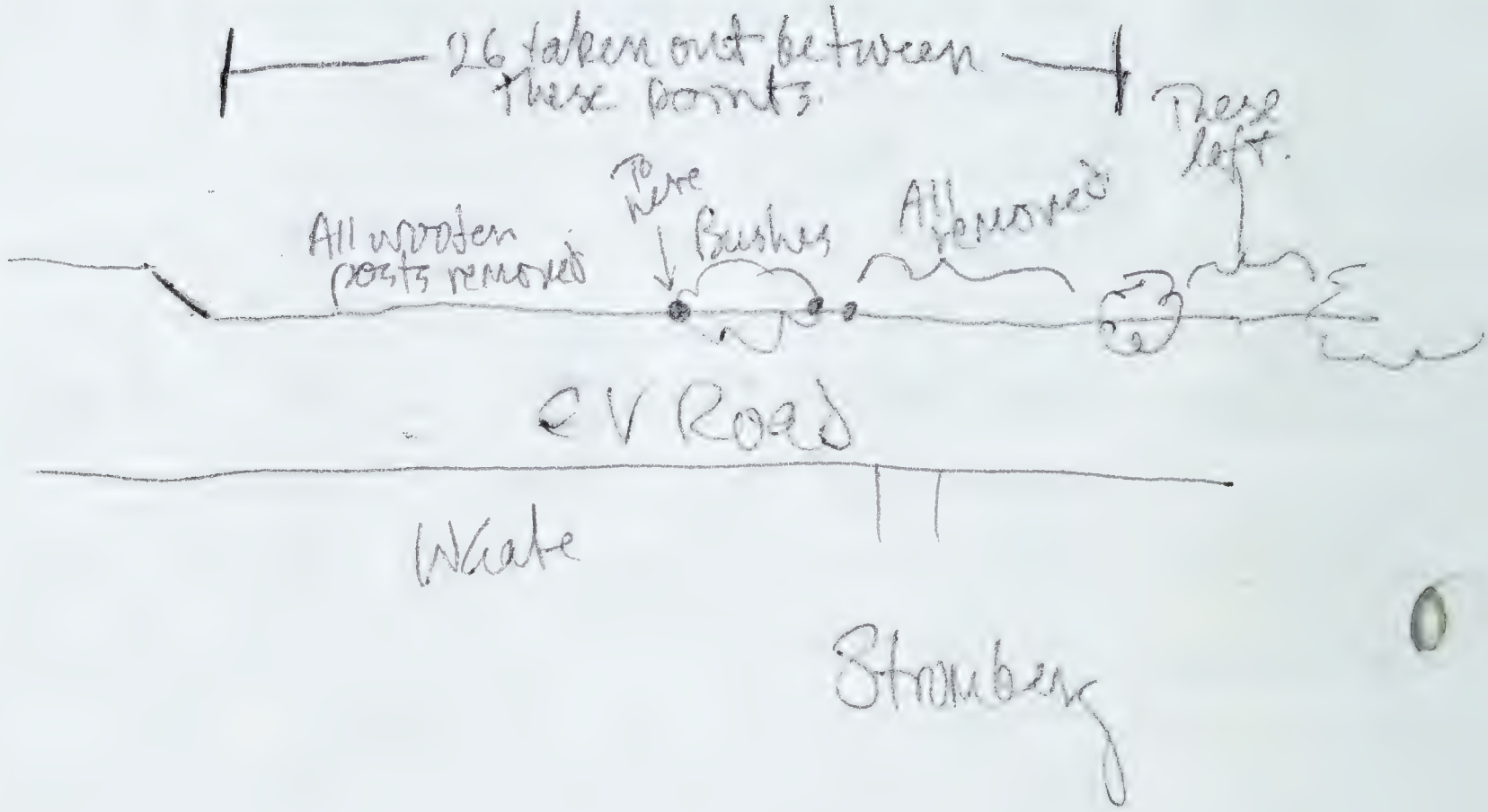
7 June 1400. Joey and I were as good as my word, and we took out 26 wooden posts between the gate and a bit beyond Stromberg's gate. (see map on back). Hopefully this will reduce the mortality rate along here, which has been awful the last couple of years.

2004

3 June Birds hanging out around one of the high holes (not in the main trunk). We'll see, could be a challenge.

24 Aug No stores left.

7 June 2003


26 taken out between these points.
These left.
To here
All wooden posts removed
Bushes
All removed
℄ V Road
Weate
Stromberg

2000
2001

Walter D Koenig

1

Melanerpes formicivorus

Cate

HINKER

12 April 1300. Walked up to the new hole they've been in, which turns out to connect to hole 263 right to the left of it. It's empty; probably egg-tossing?

18 April 1200. Checked the hole: 9 eggs! all look normal, but I didn't actually open the hole. All 3 ♀♀ laying, it would appear.

Stores still here, by the way.

16 May 1300. Banded the 6 kids here. Still stores.

30 August No stores left, best I could tell.

2 October 1400 Teresa reported a ♂NOBA here, so I dutifully ambushed, nabbing 4 birds: ♂2771, 2 of the spring kids, and 1 ♂NOBA. The last was just molting his crown, and thus must have been from a nest soon after their spring nest rather than a (recent) fall nest (!)

2001 (double entrance)

28 March 1400. Checked the old nesthole (#263): 9 eggs, at most 1-2 days incubated. 1st nest of the year!

3 April 1915. Jen & I watched roosting. 3 birds roosted in the nest. They were ♂2773 (for sure); ♀3180 (a helper; not positive but I saw ♀ who or M/DB and it almost has to be her) plus a 3rd bird who shot in but if I had to guess I'd say ♂3128, a ♂ helper (I saw light on the L leg - he's the only one who qualifies). So: ♂2771 could have been one of the 2 other birds but I don't think so.

♂2773 roosted in nest

+ ♀3180 (h)
+ ~~♂3128 (h)~~
♀3182 (see 4 April)

4 April We tried again tonight, but failed to

Melanerpes formicivorus

Gate HNHR

(4 April) get the ♂, who was in when saw WN/DB we got there and never left. Otherwise, ♀3180 (a helper) came but left, and ♀3182 (another helper) dashed in the hole, so 2 birds roosted: ♂ (ulc) and ♀3182. Based on this, I'd say that ♀3182 was the 3rd bird last night as well, not ♂3128.

♀3182 + ♂ulc roosted

5 April One more try tonight. 2 birds roosted: ♂2773 and the guy who zips in, presumably (but not definitively) ♀3182. ♀2969 came to the hole but didn't go in.

♂2773 + ♀3182 (probably) roosted

6 April 1000. Collected the eggs.

Measured them: ① 25.0 × 19.5 ② 25.7 × 20.1 ③ 25.1 × 20.3 ④ 26.4 × 20.5 ⑤ 25.5 × 20.1 ⑥ 25.0 × 19.8 ⑦ 25.8 × 19.9 ⑧ 27.7 × 20.0 ⑨ 25.3 × 19.9. All look fertile!

And all were. One was underdeveloped and probably wouldn't have hatched, but the rest looked fine. They are now #3330-3338. Let the renest begin!

23 April 1430. New nest in same hole! Again: 9 eggs (fresh). Measured one: 24.9 × 20.0

27 April 1930. Watched roosting with Laurie: ♂2773 roosted for sure, then a 2nd bird zipped in so fast we couldn't identify him (or her!).

Looking back to the 1st nest, it would seem likely that this 2nd bird was ♀3182, a helper (see 4 April).

There's also a hole the birds are roosting in here that I'd not known about before!

2001
2002

Walter D Koenig

Melanerpes formicivorus

Gate HNHR

4 May 1045. Checked the nest: 7 nestlings ~1 do + 2 unhatched eggs, which I collected and will try to get tissue out of.
Measured the 2 eggs: ② 25.8 × 20.3 (infertile? NO embryo) ③ 24.8 × 19.0 (live chick prob. would have died in the egg. Now #3371.

23 May 830. Banded and bled the 7 kids!

16 July 1400. Bird looking out of hole?! We checked it: empty.

20 July j3424 found stunned on the road.

6 October 0600. Finally ambushed someone here: getting j(♂)3423 in the (double) hole and a ♀ NOBA in the high hole. So we got ~~at least~~ one kid from the 2nd (missed!) nest.

2002

19 April 1410. Bird in high sycamore hole.

25 April Still stores here. But noone in a hole.

22 May 1600. Bird in hole (same one w/ 2 entrances): 3 fresh eggs: Finally. Apparently laying.

3 June 1415. Checked the hole: 3 nestlings, ~2 do. (Band ~ 22 June). Final clutch was 3, by the way, so apparently only 1 ♀ here now?

13 June 950. Set up to catch the NOBA.
1200. Feeding, but very slowly. No NOBA.
1220. Got him! Now #3731.

22 June 1000. Banded the 3 kids. Not much in the way of stores seem to be left here.

2002
2003

Walter D Koenig

Melanerpes formicivorus

Gate HNHR

22 August No stores here, best I can tell.

2003

19 March 1545. Lindsay thought they might have something here, so I climbed up to the usual hole, cut another block out, and checked: empty, but in good shape.

Meanwhile, in the hole above it, was the long dead remains of a bird BLK-WH(N) / 1142-37639 BLK-WH(N) / White. Not sure what killed him, it's possible he got stuck but I hope not. In any case, I pulled it out.

8 April 1000 Checked the lower hole (#263) again: still nothing, although they are quite interested so something may be up. I also opened the old hole above #263, where it's kind of damp and a starling has brought in a couple of sticks already.

11 April 1200 Turns out I was checking the wrong hole! They're in a new one, higher up on the old limb closer to the gate. It's now tagged #5554. They have 3 babies, ~5 dd, + 1 unhatched & undeveloped egg (25.4 × 19.3).

26 April 900. Banded the 3 kids. Stores? You bet.

21 May 1200. Checked old hole (tag 263): 6 fresh eggs. Possibly still laying. Meanwhile, there was a starling nest in the hole just above it with eggs, which I cleared out & cleaned up.

18 June 1100. Banded the 5 kids in the 2nd nest here. Acorns? Oh yes.

~~2005~~ 2004 Walter D Koenig

Melanerpes formicivorus

Date	UNHR
17 April	930. Bird in last year's hole. 1400. Checked hole: empty. Birds clearly interested in it, though.
5 May	1515. Bird in hole (#5554). 3 fresh eggs: ① 25.8 × 20.4 ② 25.2 × 20.2 ③ 25.3 × 20.3.
11 May	1015. 4 eggs. #4: 24.8 × 19.3. EHD: 17 May
20 May	1300. 1 baby, young (1-2 do) + 3 unhatched (but still right, I guess) eggs. Band ~ 9 June.
1 June	Bog Starling babies in their old hole by the way (the one with the 2 entrances). 1630. Cleaned out a nest + 4 kids (starlings!) from hole #263.
9 June	1200. Banded the 1 kid here!
24 Aug	No stores left here.
12 Sept	~~1800~~ 1300. A nest here! 2 kids ~ 7-8 do. Band ~ 26 Sept.
25 Sept	1530. Caught ♀2251 and banded the 2 kids, taking blood for SI analysis.
27 Sept	1400. Checked the kids for their 1st & 2nd primaries, both of which are still fuzzy + weak:

		1st	2nd	
...94 (Mauve)	Sheath	8	6	19
	Whole	15	17	34
...93	Sheath	4	4	21
	Whole	14	15	34

29 Sept 1345. Checked the kids. The new "thick" 1st & 2nd primaries have started to grow out, stuck at their tips to the

2000
2001

Walter D Koenig

Melanerpes formicivorus

Pipeline — HNHR

18 April — 1220. Stores: Yes. Bird in hole: Yes. (old hole in sycamore granary facing N).

19 April — 1030. Checked nest: 5 eggs, incubated (est HD: 24 Apr.) 2 Measured: 25.9 × 19.7 and 25.9 × 19.5 mm.

15 May — 1830. Banded the 4 kids in the rain. Plenty of stores left here.

5 Sept. — Bird in hole (high hole), but no eggs or anything. No stores either, best I could tell.

2001

12 April — 1145. Bird in new hole in granary (between old holes)

1615. Opened hole (tag #1304): 3 eggs, incubated. Measured 2: ① 25.8 × 19.0 ② 25.4 × 18.6. EHD 4/17. ← see 4/19 Apparently 4 eggs

19 April — 1310. 4 babies, ~2 do. ~~Hog~~ Huh. How did I miss an egg??

Oh well. Band ~ 8 May.

7 May — 1030. Banded the 3 kids here (#3378-3380)

4 June — 1700. Opened the 2nd nest, in a new hole (now tagged 1323): 4 inc. eggs. Measured them: ① 26.2 × 18.2 ② 26.9 × 18.4 ③ 25.7 × 19.1 ④ 25.7 × 18.4.

11 June — 1400. 4 babies a good 5 days old. Band ~ 26 June.

26 June — 1400. Banded the 3 kids (#3354-3356).

2002
2003
2004

Walter D Koenig

Melanerpes formicivorus

Pipeline HNHR

12 April 1315. Bird in last year's 2nd nest hole.
1400. Checked hole: in good shape but empty.
Plenty of stores here.

4 June 1400. Bird apparently flushing from the lowest hole (old) in the other limb the last couple of days, so I checked it empty. Still stores here, however.

22 August No stores left.

2003

5 May 1410 I think I finally found the nest - it's in one of the dead spindly sycamores over next to the creek. Almost impossible to see!

6 May 1230. Got up there - it's really in a fairly inaccessible spot. Oh well! 4 fresh eggs.
① 26.0 × 18.7 ② 27.0 × 18.7 ③ 27.2 × 18.3 ④ 27.0 × 19.1
Hatch ~ 17 May.

18 May 1240 Checked hole. 3 kids ~ 2 to Band ~ 6 June. Set antenna for the NOBA

1 June 1100. Got the NOBA ♂! Other 2 (♀2462 & ♂3552) feeding also. Banded & bled the 3 kids.

2004

11 May Still looking pretty much deserted out here.

14 May 1300. Bird (♀) here checking things out?
By the way, hole 1323 has lots of light shining in and is probably unusable.

25 May No sign of anyone here today.

2000
2001
2002

Walter Koenig

Melanerpes formicivorus

Wolfpack HNHR

18 April 1230. Couldn't find anyone in a hole, but there are a few acorns remaining here.

19 May 1345. Bird! Baby noises! Nest in the Sycamore! Went up - 2 kids, old! Banded & bled.

5 Sept. Bird flushed from the ~~tree~~ old low hole in the forest, so I checked it: old wren nest. I cleaned it out, so it could be used again in the future. No stores left here.

2001

28 March 1500. Opened the 2000 nest hole (now tagged #1306) as a bird was looking out. It needed deepening, so it wasn't easy. But: it was empty.

5 April 1430. Bird in hole again, but it's still empty.

12 April 1200. Bird in hole: 3 eggs, freshish.

23 April 1500. 3 babies, 1-2 do. Band ~5/12.

12 May 1500. Banded the 3 kids, #3395-3397.

5 ~~May~~ June 1115. Bird in (same) hole: 5 eggs, a few days incubated. Measured them: ① 24.9 x 19.6 ② 25.2 x 19.5 ③ 26.0 x 19.6 ④ 25.5 x 19.9 ⑤ 25.7 x 20.0

2002

12 April There are at least a few acorns still stored here.

23 April 1245. Bird in 2001 hole (#1306). Opened: mucky at bottom; cleaned out as best I could but will still need work.

22 August No stores

2003
2004

Walter Koenig

Melanerpes formicivorus

Wolfpack

8 April 1400. Bird at hole: empty, but basically ready to go. HNHR

25 April 1400. Birds in artificial nest cavity over in the granary! Checked hole: 8 fresh eggs (no nestlings).

9 May 1600. 4 kids, ~7 days old. Set ambushes; get those ♀♀ in about a week. Band ~ 23 May.

17 May 815. Set up to get a NOBA. Acorns still in this tree (stored), by the way. 839. Got one. On to go (tomorrow, perhaps).

18 May 830. Trying for ♀ #2. 900. Missed her! Trying again. 930. Got her! Banded her and the 4 kids (1 a runt).

14 June 1135. Lindsay had seen a bird in the (artificial) hole, so I checked it, but there ain't nothin' in it nohow.

6 July 1530. Checked nest hole - zilch.

2004

11 May No sign of anyone here so far.

2000
2001
2002

Walter D Koenig

Melanerpes formicivorus

Road 1 HNHR

18 April 1240. Bird in the hole where we presumably nested the nest last year. Still stores here.

19 April 1050. Checked hole (#297): 7 eggs, fresh. (EHD: 28 April). Measured 3: 25.8 × 19.7; 26.1 × 19.6; 26.0 × 19.8.

2 May 830. Checked nest: 6 babies - 1 on way out + collected. No unhatched eggs. Kids ~ 3-4 do. Band ~ 19 May.

19 May 1200. Banded the 5 babies here. ~~[illegible]~~.

5 Sept. No stores left. Noone in holes

2001

12 April 1245. Bird in usual hole (#297): 4 eggs, fresh. (EHD 22 April).

23 April 1530. 1 egg hatched, 3 to go. Band ~ 14 May. Measured 2 eggs: ① 24.9 × 19.5 ② 24.3 × 19.5.

14 May 1100. Banded the 3 kids (#3402-3404).

5 June 1130. Bird in (same) hole: 2 fresh eggs. Measured them: ① 25.2 × 20.5 ② 24.8 × 19.8.

11 June 1600. 5 eggs: ③ 25.7 × 20.4 ④ 26.3 × 19.5 ⑤ 25.3 × 20.3. Should hatch ~ 6/19.

2002

22 May Out of stores, best I can tell. Still noone in a hole.

6 June 830. I found a new hole in their normal Valley Oak that they roosted in last night so I opened it today: empty + relatively new.

2003
2004
2005

Walter D Koenig

1

Melanerpes formicivorus

Road 1

HNHR

11 April — 1245. Bird in old hole in the valley oak over by the creek: 7 eggs, fresh. Measured them: ① 25.1 × 18.4 ② 26.1 × 19.3 ③ 25.2 × 18.6 ④ 26.6 × 19.2 ⑤ 25.2 × 19.0 ⑥ 25.1 × 18.8 ⑦ 25.4 × 18.4.

26 April — 930 4 babies, ~5 do, + 1 dead (but developed) egg. Band ~ 11 May.

2005 — 13 May — 1645. Banded the 4 kids. Stores: yes (Hole #297)

24 June — 1115 Bird in hole (same one): 3 inc. eggs ① 25.7 × 18.3 ② 26.1 × 19.9 ③ 26.9 × 19.0.

1 July — 1945. 3 kids, 1-2 do. Band ~ 20 July.

30 Dec. — 700. Ambushed here, in the normal hole, getting all 3 adults. But no juv., which Jay or Andrew thought he saw here earlier this month. Given that all adults were here, I suspect that if there was a kid, he's probably gone by now — unless there's a hole I don't know about (where the nest may have been)!

2004

2005

26 March — 600. Ambushed at a new hole ~18' up in the Road Sycamore, getting the same 3 birds again! No NOBA, although a 4th bird did call from the area while I was taking them out so maybe there is another bird...

I'm getting rid of the "NOBA" from the putative fall nest here: although seen once by the FAs, there's been no subsequent evidence he/she exists.

2000
2001

Walter D Koenig

1

Melanerpes formicivorus

Finch

HNTR

3 April 2000. At long last a successful ambush here in the middle hole of the leaning sycamore. Got 2 birds, ♂2449 and a ♀NOBA, who was definitely an adult (A2Y) - not a kid from 1999, late or early. (Based on old feathers, square primaries, no tail spots, old 3°, etc.)

18 April 1245. Noone in any (known) hole. Also, no stores here that I can find.

19 May 1130. Bird in middle hole in the sycamore! Checked it: 2 hatchlings + 1 unhatched but developed egg (could still hatch): 27.1 x 18.4 mm. (Same hole where we caught the birds on 3 April.) Band ~ 8 June.

9 June 1100. Banded the 3 kids. Still can't find any stores.

5 Sept. Still no stores nor bird in hole.

9 Sept. 600. Ambushed the low old nest hole in the sycamore next to the road (old granary tree), getting only j[♂] 3260.

Teresa reports a ♂NOBA here, possibly from a 1999 nest (before we really knew this group existed)? That's who I'm trying to get.

2001

10 May I can't find nothin' here. Furthermore, this may be the only group on the whole study that doesn't seem to have any stores. Is it even still here? They've been erratic, at best, all year.

25 May 1600. And the answer is: Yes! Not only that, but they have 4 kids fairly old in a new hole (now

2001 Walter D Koenig
2002
2003
2004

Melanerpes formicivorus

Finch

(25 May) tagged (321) on the SW side of the road in a dead sycamore near the road. I banded them #3441–3444. HNHR

2002

22 May No sign of much here so far. Even the "mystery" granary across from Nacflat (tagged HNHR 1664) appears used up; not much left out here in terms of stores.

2003

20 April There are definitely stores in the "burned out" granary; there are birds here somewhere.

13 May 1715. Bird in middle hole of old sycamore!
17 May 845. Bird in hole again! Time to get up there
18 May 1200. Checked hole: 4 eggs, incubated.
① 26.3 × 18.6 ② 24.5 × 17.9 ③ 25.5 × 18.2
④ 26.7 × 18.2. EHD ~ 21 May
27 May 930. 3 kits, ~8 days old. Band 9 June
2 June 1600. Caught the NOBA ♀ here at the nest
6 June 830. Banded & bled the 3 kids. Stores: definitely

2004

17 April Old sycamore has fallen! Rats! Where will these guys nest now?
11 May No stores left here. Not much sign of life really.
25 May Bird in hole in the Live Oak up the hill!
26 May 1200. Opened both holes in the Live Oak. Higher one is not quite deep enough; lower one is passable.

2001
2002

Walter D Koenig

Melanerpes formicivorus

MacFlat

HNHR

3 May — Previously I've been calling this group Road 3, but since there's a new group over there, we need to call this one (closer to Finch) MacFlat again. In any case, at 0830 we checked the new (lower) hole in the tall tree and found 5 fresh eggs. ① 23.7 × 19.8 ② 24.5 × 20.0 ③ 24.7 × 20.2 ④ 23.8 × 19.2 ⑤ 24.0 × 19.6

Hole is tagged #1311.

16 May — 1445. 3 babies, ~4-5 do. band 1 June. Set an ambusher.

25 May — 915. Ready for a NOBA.

922. ♀ wh/wh + M/R-W(N) #3210. 4 trips!

935. A banded ♂! ♂ DG/M DG-wh/or 2797!!

945. So far only these 2?

1015. Still only the 2. I think they're it!

1230. Went ahead and banded the 3 kids (3438-3440).

2002

12 May — No sign of a nest or of remaining stores here.

2000 Walter D Koenig
2001

Melanerpes formicivorus

Road 3

NNHR

(8 April) 1250. Only a few stores left, best I can tell. Noone in any holes, either.

22 April 1445. Opened the new hole, high in the VO where we presumably missed the nest last year (but a new hole below the old one.) 5 eggs, fresh (EHD: 1 May) Measured one: 23.7 × 19.3.

2 May 815. Checked nest: 4 babies (1 runtish) + 1 unhatched egg. Just hatched, probably yesterday. Band ~ 23 May. The unhatched egg was opaque but not pipped.

23 May Banded + bled the 3 kids.
Looks like only a very few acorns left.

22 June Checked the hole (birds in it last 2 days) but it's empty.

31 August 1100. Bird in hole!
1415. Checked hole: 3 fresh eggs!

5 Sept. 1330. Checked hole: 4 eggs. EHD: 11 Sept.

2 October 1130. Banded & bled the 3 kids.

2001

13 March Ambushed this morning, getting 2 ♀ 2♂ kids from last year (3317, + 3210). This suggests that a new NOBA hasn't taken over here, contrary to Lauryn's suspicions.

17 April 1430. Bird in the new hole in the old R3 sycamore: opened it, but empty.

23 April 1645. Bird in new hole (now #1308): 5 fresh eggs

4 May 1100. 4 babies, 1 dd (no eggs). Set ambusher.

16 May 1015. Got the ♂.

2001
2002
2003

Walter D Koenig

Melanerpes formicivorus

Road 3

HNHR

17 May 1300. Got the ♀ (after about 5 min)! Banded her as #3417; then banded the 3 kids (3418-3420), even though they're a tad young.

2002

22 May No sign of much here so far, including any remaining stores.

2003

8 April Bird in (new) hole!
1545. Opened hole: not bad, but empty so far. No stores over here by the way (at least in the sycamore or the Valley Oak across the road).

2000
2001
2002

Walter D Koenig

Melanerpes formicivorus

School Hill — HNHR

12 April — Plenty of stores, but noone in any holes here.

24 April — 1030. A touch of power struggling still up here, me thinks.

18 May — Still stores. No sign of a nest still.

31 May — 945. Checked the nest: 6 babies, 2-3 do + 3 unhatched + undeveloped eggs, 1 of which is a nest.

19 June — 1000. Banded the 1 and only baby here!! There are still stores here.

20 July — Only a very few acorns left, best I can tell.

31 August — Noone in any holes. Out of acorns, I believe.

6 Sept. — 930. Checked the higher old hole, where there was a bird yesterday afternoon. Empty.

2001

18 April — 1045. Bird in hole (Tag #276) empty, but in good shape.

24 April — 1035. Hole still empty.

7 May — 1700. Finally: 5 eggs (hole 276): ① 25.5 × 20.2 ② 26.2 × 21.0 ③ 26.2 × 20.9 ④ 26.6 × 20.3 ⑤ 25.7 × 20.8. Eggs a couple days incubated; EHD ~ 16 May.

17 May — 1600. 4 babies 2-3 do + 1 unhatched eggs. Band ~ 4 June.

1 June — 500. Banded the 3 kids here.

26 June — ~~Spent part of~~ 1830. Bird in (same) hole; checked it: empty.

2002

17 April — 1515. Bird in hole 276. Checked it: needs some cleaning still! Definitely acorns still here.

10 May — 1600. Hole 276 still not fixed up, but I put in wood chips and now it's ready to go, if anyone here ♂

2002 Walter D Koenig
2003
2004

Melanerpes formicivorus

School Hill HHHR

22 May 1350. Called and got noone, but then when I started to climb a bird poked his head out of last year's hole (tag 276): 3 eggs, fresh (1 runt); presumably still laying.
Measurements: ① 24.8 × 20.3 ② 23.8 × 19.2 ③ 17.9 × 14.8 (calipers checked). Should check in a few days for final clutch size.

28 August No stores left up here.

2003

18 April Bird in traditional hole (#276).
1800. Opened hole: empty.

26 April 1515. Noone anywhere, but checked hole #276 anyway: still empty.

17 May 1330. Acorns and birds here; still no sign of a nest. Hole #276 still empty.

30 Sept Stored acorns here.

2004

14 May Not much in the way of stores here.
Checked the traditional hole (tag 276): empty but in good shape.
I take it back: there are some stores here! Not a lot, but definitely some.

13 June Still are a few stores here.

26 Aug No stores left, or so few as to hardly count.

2000
2001

Walter D Koenig

Melanerpes formicivorus

School Hill B — HNHR

28 Nov — 830. Finally got a bird here, where one of the SHil ♂♂ budded off last summer and bred with a ♀ NOBA. ~~Nowo~~ Unfortunately, it was only 1 bird, but it was the juv, most likely the only survivor from the missed nest. In any case, she was just molting her crown, so the nest must have been quite late or maybe even an early fall nest (like August). Still a NOBA ♀ here, however, as far as I know.

They're storing just in the old crumbling bark of the Valley Oak snag above the exclosure. This is also where I caught the bird.

21 December — 730. Ambushed again up here, this time getting the 2 adults: ♂2863 and the ♀NOBA, now #3328. Everyone should be banded here now, finally.

2001

7 May — 1700. Nest in the hole in the dead ~~blue~~ valley oak (prob. used last year as well; now tagged #1314): 5 eggs, a couple days inc. (EHD: 15 May).
① 26.5 × 20.0 ② 27.1 × 20.4 ③ 26.8 × 19.5
④ 26.0 × 20.4 ⑤ 25.6 × 20.0

17 May — 1600. 5 babies, ~3-4 do. Band ~ 3 June.

31 May — 1030. Set up to get the ♂NOBA. ① ♀ BIK/B-W(N) #3328. ② ♂NOBA. Is ♂2863 still here? These 2 are feeding a lot, and noone else is in evidence.

Melanerpes formicivorus

School Hill B [Named ch. to "Sch Hill Annex"] HNHR

(31 May) 1240.! There is a ♀NOBA feeding here!

1300. Giving up - too late; the birds are only dipping in at best. But it would appear that there's a new (breeder, I presume) ♂ along with what I can only guess is a ♀NOBA helper from last year. ♂2863 is nowhere to be seen.

1310. Waited a bit afterall and nabbed the ♀NOBA! Then banded the kids and set up for a dawn ambush to get the ♂.

1 June 415. Ambusher messed up!

735. Back to try again during feeding.

810. ♀3328.

The ♀ I caught yesterday, by the way, is almost certainly a 2Y bird, probably from the missed nest. Of course, assuming a new ♂ here, both she and ♀3324, if she's still here, have presumably inherited, even though they don't seem to have laid eggs.

900. Just ♀3328 feeding so far.

912. Over foraging: ② ♀OM/or-DB [the one I caught].

935. No sign of a male yet. Will come back later.

Lance watched for 3 hrs later in the day, but still no ♂.

2 June 430. This morning the ambusher worked, but no one was in with the kids.

26 June 1630. Peeped the nesthole: empty.

2002
2003
2004

Walter D Koenig

1

Melanerpes formicivorus

School Hill Annex — HNHR

22 May — 1345. Still not much in the way of life up here. I can't even find any acorns in the granary, although I don't consider that strong evidence that they're out. Nonetheless, noone seen in a hole up here yet this spring.

2003

17 May — 1300. Can't seem to find much here, but there are still acorns stored in their granary, so they're here somewhere.

29 May — 1745. Bird in old hole in Tree 4 of the exclosure! Opened it (it's now quite deep): 6 incubated eggs (1 a runt). ① 28.3 × 20.2 ② 28.9 × 20.2 ③ 25.7 × 19.5 ④ 28.9 × 20.5 ⑤ 29.6 × 20.6 ⑥ 19.5 × 15.1 Yes! Still stores here.

23 June — 1330. Banded & bled the 5 kids here.

30 Sept — A fair number of stored acorns here!

2004

13 June — Birds have been here all spring, but never any sign of a nest.

26 Aug — No stores left here that I could find.

2000
2001

Walter D Koenig

Melanerpes formicivorus

School Hill West — HNHR

7 Feb — 945. Went up here with Teresa. Didn't see any birds, but there are >100 stored acorns in the granary.

12 April — Stores here, but noone in any holes.

20 July — No stores left.

2001

4 April — 1000. Bird in (upper) hole: 4 fresh eggs. Hole tagged #1301.

9 April — 1900. At roosting, I thought I saw M/or #3111, but I wouldn't swear to it. Next time try the left side – it's too bright over here on the right. (See 10 April; scratch this one.)

♂3111 roosted (I think)

10 April — 1900. OK. Tonight I got him for sure, and it was Red-Or/DB #3113, not ♂3111. Given my ambivalence last night and the similarity of the 2 overings (it's not like anyone else even seems to have thought about roosting here), I think I should scrap yesterday's watch and just go with ♂3113.

♂3113 roosted for sure by himself

12 April — 1908. He waited until it was quite late, but ♂3113 was definitely the rooster again tonight. So: ♂3113 2/2 by himself for sure; 1 night "und."

♂3113 for sure

13 April — 1330. Came to collect the eggs, but got 2 surprises. First, there was a ♂ not on the field list in the hole: ♂ DG/872-42804 DG/Mv-Or 3112. Second, the 4 eggs were all fresh and clean – i.e. they look like they'd just been laid! It's possible they're all infertile; I should check in a couple of days.

Melanerpes formicivorus

School Hill West HNHR

(13 April) Alternatively, and, given how clean and fresh the eggs looked, more likely, I'd guess that the 1st set I found on 4 April is gone and that this is the replacement clutch! Odd!

So! The ♂ is 3112 from 1800, another brother of the 2 ♂♂ we knew were here. Perhaps his appearance here is related to the apparent disappearance of the clutch?

18 April 1115. Lance reported virtually no activity here, so I came fearing the worst and found it: nest is empty. I still suspect cobreeder ♂ problems.

24 April 1000. Noone in any holes. Still stores.

4 May 1610. Bird in same hole! 6 eggs, fresh.. Measured 3: [① 25.5 × 20.3 ② 25.5 × 20.1 ③ 25.7 × 19.8] Remeas. 5/9).

8 May 1930. Tonight ♂ M/a 3111 came to the hole, but only ♂ Red-orange 3113 roosted in the nest.

9 May 840. Took the 6 eggs and put them into the incubator.

The other 3: ④ 25.3 × 20.1 ⑤ 25.7 × 20.6 ⑥ 25.7 × 20.2 hd

① 25.7 × 20.2 ② 25.9 × 20.5 ③ 25.6 × 20.2 ← All six!

On the ground, I found I almost intact egg, no doubt from one of the prior nests. It was empty except for a 1/4" hole in the side. It measured 26.3 × 20.2.

All the eggs are pretty transluscent except for 1; I hope this doesn't mean that only it's fertile!

11 May One of the 6 eggs hatched and is now #3394.

Melanerpes formicivorus

School Hill West HNHR

(11 May) None of the other 5 eggs are developed, which means that either they're infertile or they were all laid long after the one that's hatched. We'll see. Assuming 11 days, the hatched one should have been laid no later than 30 April (and incubated since then...!) while I know that the last 3 eggs were laid 5-7 May and shouldn't hatch until ~18 May. Odd, to say the least, but it's clear they only would have ended up with this one kid so perhaps it's just as well I took the clutch.

17 May The 5 eggs are still looking undeveloped. 1530. No one in a hole here. Still acorns.

29 May 830. Checked the nest (which also has 5 eggs). None have hatched. This is worrisome, given the track record of the prior nest. But at least 2 of the eggs do look developed, so maybe it will be OK, despite the fact that they should have hatched by now.

31 May 1430. Checked the nest: 2 babies, 1-2 do, + 4 unhatched eggs, 2 of which developed and could still hatch, I suppose, for all the good it will do them. At least somebody hatched! Band ~ 6/19.

14 June 1130. Banded the 3 kids.

2002 Walter D Koenig
2003

Melanerpes formicivorus

Sch. Hill West — HWHR

17 April 1445. No stores here, best I can tell. Also noone in the holes.

22 May Still zilch here.

2003

26 April 1500. Nothing much here: no stores or sign of birds. Worse yet, the limb in the granary with all the nest holes fell, taking with it all but the lowest (old) hole.

2 May 1745. Wandered all around here, seeing no sign of anyone until I was walking up to the granary, at which point a bird (1 only) flew off. It's unclear if there's a decent hole left here – even the low one looks potentially compromised. (But possibly fixable; I need to go up and take a look)

1800 Climbed up and checked: hole is still potentially sound. The limb, on the other hand, I'm not so sure of. I fear that if they use it I may have to bring a ladder up (20' should be enough, thankfully).

17 May 1300. Very quiet up here, no sign of anyone anywhere.

29 May 1020. Again – dead up here.

23 June 1300. The 2 kids are here and fine, [redacted] so we banded them. Stores? Not as far as I can tell.

30 Sept. No birds seen, but there are a few stored acorns!

2000 Walter D Koenig

Melanerpes formicivorus

Arf too HNHR

11 May 1345. Walked around here a bit, but noted no stores and no sign of any birds.

2000
2001
2002

Walter D Koenig

Melanerpes formicivorus

Black Oak Still HNHR

23 May 1030. ~~[illegible]~~ stores. Joey checked the hole: 4 eggs, incubated. EHD ~ 27 May. (Could hatch any day.) Measured one: 26.9 × 20.2 mm.

16 June 1430. Banded the 4 kids. Still a few stores here.

20 July Out of stores.

2001

5 April 1015. Bird in hole - the curved limb hole, not the PO tree.

10 April 1415. Bird flew out of hole. Checked it: 3 eggs, 1-2 days incubated (?) Or maybe they're still laying?

19 April 1300. 3 babies, ~1 do. Band ~ 9 May.

3 May 1430. Banded + bled the 3 kids (#3364 - 3366)

6 ~~May~~ June! 1200. 2nd nest in the (very) old hole that you can rope-climb to: 4 babies, ~2 do. Band ~ 25 June.

13 June After 2 watches by Lance where nobody came, I checked the nest, which is empty.

19 June 1300. 2 birds in 1st nesthole. (Adults, so something could be going on.)

26 June 1515. Nobody in the hole, but we checked it anyway: 4 eggs, incubated. One didn't look developed, but the rest could hatch anytime. I measured the eggs; see Joey's notes for the numbers.

16 July 1230. Banded the 3 kids here.

2002

12 March Stores doing OK here.

12 April Still stores! Noone in any holes, though

2 May Stores: Yes. Bird in hole: no.

2002 Walter D Koenig 2
2003
2004

Melanerpes formicivorus

Black Lake HNHR ?

(2 May) All pretty quiet over here.

31 May 1300. Finally went up to check the usual hole. 4 inc eggs (EHD ~3 June). See Joey's notes for measurements (calipers chkd.)

5 June Just hatching - 2 hatchlings, 2 eggs; all will probably hatch.

25 June Banded and bled the 3 kids. There are acorns left here.

30 August No stores left.

2003

26 April 1300. Bird in traditional hole; flew out; didn't hear anything, so perhaps still eggs? Need to get the ladder up here.

30 April 1540. Finally got the ladder up here to check the hole: 2 kids, ~3 do; no other eggs or anything. Band ~19 May.

20 May 1030. Banded & bled the 2 kids here. Plenty of stores.

18 June 1540. Bird in the lower old hole facing the Arnold road. Flew out, but I should check it if it happens again.

26 June 1145. Opened the old hole: 3 kids, a good 1546 days old!

29 June 1130. Banded the 3 kids. Plenty of stores left.

2004

29 April The traditional nest hole (in the tall limb) seems to have been taken over by bees!

10 August Out of stores!

stores more

2000
2001

Walter D Koenig

Melanerpes formicivorus

Phobo — HNHR

13 April — 1115. Nesting in hole in PO tree (presumably, this is Phobo - could, of course, be Blk Oak). 3 eggs, incubated.

21 April — 1300. 3 babies, 3-4 do. Band: 8 May.

5 May — 900. Greg set up to catch the NOBA. Still 3 kids.

11 May — 1030. Me here trying to catch the NOBA.

1130. 4 birds so far: ♀2214, ♂2634, ♀2821, and a ♂ Red/M ? [Red band faded.] [Apparently ♂2825] (see back)

Did a 90 min watch. Only the above 4 birds seen; no sign of a NOBA (or the other banded birds).

27 June — Still stores here. No sign of a 2nd nest.

20 July — A few stores left.

1 September — I don't see any stores, but, Teresa saw a bird in the hole and they do indeed have a nest (!): 4 eggs + 1 hatchling. Band ~ 21 Sept.!

7 Sept. — 1315. Checked the nest: empty (a few egg shells only). Nice try, however.

2001 — (Blanca Negra)

5 April — 1030. Bird in old hole in the Black Oak over toward Blanca: 4 eggs incubated.

10 April — 1500. Checked hole: hatching. 3 hatchlings + 1 fertile but unhatched egg that probably will hatch. Band ~ 1 May.

There are actually stored acorns in this tree, which makes me wonder whether this is not Phobo, but an entirely new group. We'll see, I guess.

18 April — Based on watches so far, this looks like a new group which we'll call Blanca Negra.

Note: ♂2825 was seen as a ♂ by Diane Wong in Dec. 1997, then fleetingly as a ♀ in Feb. 1998. ~~The~~ He/she was never seen again, but basically we've had few watchers and assuming he was missexed (he was in as a ♀) it would explain why he wasn't seen again.

There is no plausible ♂ Red/M other than ♂2825, who is apparently still a helper.

23 May Wrong! It's not ♂2825, it's ♂2910 (I think). In any case, Greg got the Left Leg; the R leg is ♂ Mauve/M.

2001 Walter D Koenig
2002
2003

Melanerpes formicivorus

Phobo HNHR

(18 April) So: still need a nest here.

24 May 1500. Finally got the nest here - it is one of the holes in the N-facing limb of the old granary - but not the hole I thought they were interested in! And, to add insult to injury, it has 2 old babies in it! With luck we didn't miss any, but it is possible.

29 June Checked the nesthole - Peromyscus nest; cleaned out.

16 July 1200. Bird looking out of new nest hole! Opened it: 1 kid! Take note: these birds apparently do not look out!! This is the second one, both of which we only found because the kid looked out.

See details on the hole, which is just above the 1997 hole, on the back.

2002

12 March Fair number of stores remaining here.

12 April 1000. Still stores. ♂ BLK/R-WTN #2585 on granary.

2 May Stores: Yes. Bird in hole: no.

28 May 1115. Babies squawking in Black Oak below main area! Opened new hole: 2 kids, old! Banded them as #3697-3698.

30 August Out of stores.

2003

10 April Bird in (last year's) hole

STORES HERE

16 July 2001 2nd Nest hole (Hole 87)

Tag 1328
Ht 25'
Dir 45°
Angle -65°
DNH 1.76m

Same tree as prior nest (1½m above ~~2000~~ 1997 nest hole, which is filled w/ acorns)

hole #16

2003
2004

Walter D Koenig

Melanerpes formicivorus

Photo HNHA

(10 April) 1430. Opened the (old) hole: 5 eggs (1 a runt); fresh. ① 23.4 × 20.1 ② 23.0 × 19.4 ③ 24.7 × 19.5 ④ 24.6 × 19.5 ⑤ 19.2 × 14.4

26 April 1300. 4 babies (1 on way out), 4-5 days old, no eggs. Band ~ 12 May. (Hole #5556)

10 May 1300. Still 4 kids. Set ambusher, hoping to get the NOBA here in a couple of days.

13 May 1400. Banded the 4 kids. NOBA didn't feed, so he's still at large. Acorns: you bet.

2004

14 March 600. After ambushing the 2003 nest hole plus a new hole in the Black Oak (and getting zilch) I ambushed at the Poison Oak tree (old nest hole) where we saw all the birds come out yesterday morning, and got – 1 bird! 63263. Pretty disappointing.

13 May 1115. On a complete lark, I climbed up the black oak and checked the new hole I opened in March, and pulled out – 1 very old nestling! I had to take him down to bleed him, returning him a couple hours later.

Unfortunately, I could very well have missed other nestlings here.

19 May 1500. Set an ambush at the 1st nest hole, and checked the other (higher) hole (tagged 5556): 3 kids, ~2 do! Band ~ 7 June. Lots of stores here

2004 Walter D Koenig

Melanerpes formicivorus

Phobo HNHR

2 June 1120. Set up to try and get the ♂ NOBA here at the nest.

1140. ① ♂ M/Red-Wh # 2985.

1220. ② ♂ M/DG # 3263. Feeding acorn bits.

1300. Finally a ♀, but missed her bands (or she didn't have any).

1350. ③ ♂? M/Gm-Wh(N) # 3120. Pushed out of the way by # 3263. Sex not seen, but definitely not Blk-Blk(N) – LL seen well, actually.

1410. Quitting for now.

3 June 845. Back to try again.

954. ♂ 2985.

1022. ♀ Lg-Wh(N)/DG # 2821 for sure. On later visits the LL band looked redder, albeit fairly faded.

1105. ♂ M/DG # 3263.

1300. Gave up; caught ♀ 2821 for stable isotopes and banded the 2 kids.

5 June 500. Ambushed 3 holes – pretty much everything except the (current) nest – and got a grand total of 1 bird: ♂ 3120. (In the previously unopened hole in the side tree.)

10 August Still stores remaining here.

2000
2001

Walter D Koenig

Melanerpes formicivorus

Arnold 1 HNHR

1 June 1430. Banded the 3 kids. There appear to be just a few acorns left here.

27 June Still a few stores left.

20 July Still a (very) few stores left.

1 September Out of stores. Noone in any holes.

Teresa, by the way, reports a ♀ NOBA here, which would imply no incest here last spring after all.

2001

18 April 1500. Bird in high hole: 4 eggs, fairly fresh.

1 May 1200. 4 babies ~2 do + 1 unhatched egg (22.6 × 18.5). Set up the ambushes.

15 May 915. Set to try and get the ♂ NOBA. Coming to the nest: ① ♀ Yel/M #2034 ② ♂ Blk/LP- #3088 ③ ♀ Wh-LG/LG #3239. ④ ♂ M ~~NB~~-Yel(N) #3031. ⑤ ♀ MV/Re-Wh #3030. ⑥ ♂ Blk/LB #2809.

1130. A fair number of feeds & birds, but no indication of a NOBA. What's up here?

1155. I'm moderately sure there's no NOBA here. Leaving.

23 May 1000. Banded the 4 kids here.

7 June 800. Bird in (other) nest hole.

9 June 700. Opened hole (tag 269): 5 eggs, ~2 d inc. ① 24.0 × 19.0 ② 24.8 × 18.2 ③ 24.0 × 18.5 ④ 24.6 × 18.9 ⑤ 24.8 × 19.0. End ~ 18 June.

19 June 1315. 4 babies ~~(1)~~ 2-3 do + 1 developed but unhatched egg. Band ~ 7 July.

2002 Walter D Koenig 1
2003
2004

Melanerpes formicivorus

Arnold 1 HNHR

12 March Lots of acorns stored here.
12 April Still many stores.
12 June Still stores. Still no sign of a nest.

2003

3 April Power struggle up here today!
17 April 1615. Bird in traditional (high) hole.
19 April 1100. Checked the (high) hole: empty.
21 April Bird in the (high) hole again!
30 May Still stores, noone in a hole (but at least birds were up near the old nest hole).
12 June 1630. A possible nest here? See Keep Out notes. Meanwhile, I checked the (high) hole just in case: it's still empty.
11 June Michelle watched at the nest, and it is Arnold 1. Incest??. (No - KOut ♂♂ here now)
18 June 1730. Nest empty. Tagged #5818. Stores? Yes; definitely.

2004

12 August ! Granary has fallen! It's history. This is since Catherine's last census in July. Leaves are brown so it wasn't in the last week or so. No telling what they might do here.

2000
2001
2002

Walter D Koenig

Melanerpes formicivorus

Keep Out — HNHR

early Feb. — Due to a screwup by the Bradley's, the Keep Out granary was cut down; virtually a total loss.

23 May — 1230 Checked nest: 2 kids, ~7 do. Band ~ 6 June.

5 June — 1100. Banded the 2 kids. There are a few acorns still in one of the limbs around here, but not much; without their granary there aren't many places to store anymore.

2001

31 May — The very nice-looking hole Joey pointed out in the 3rd valley oak going up the hill on Hastings does indeed have old babies in it! We'll have to come back and open it tomorrow, however. [Hole tagged #1326]

19 June — 1300. Bird in the opened hole in the live (PO covered) Valley Oak on the Lambert side; the 2nd time.
1400. Opened it: 3 inc eggs! Measured one: 25.8×20.5
Tagged the hole #1329.

26 June — 1500. 3 babies ~5 do. Band ~ 12 July.

2002

12 March — Several birds here but nowhere much to store. The old Live Oak nest tree has fallen, by the way.
! There are a few stored acorns in one of the dead limbs of the Valley Oak just up toward Lambert.

2 May — 945. Bird in hole (1326): 4 not-totally-fresh eggs! Measured them (calipers watched carefully):
① 24.0×19.3 ② 24.7×19.6 ③ 24.3×19.3 ④ 24.0×19.3

2002 Walter D Koenig

Melanerpes formicivorus

Keep Out HNHR

(2 May) EHD: ≈ 9 May (a guess). But we have no real idea about who might be here, so we should watch sooner.

8 May 1220. Still 4 eggs.
1935. Too many birds roosting in the nest! At least 3. Definitely ♂ M/Red-Blk #2647.
~~Er thank Nature~~ Unfortunately I messed up on the other 2 and can't be sure who they were. I should have taped it all.
I think they were ♂ LG-LB/M - probably ♂2684, plus a bird with a narrow split band; one of the helper ♂♂? (3252)

9 May 1100. Turns out there are 2 breeding brothers here: a nice experimental group! So I took the 4 eggs, which should be close to hatching.

22 May 930. Checked the (same) hole: 5 fresh eggs. See Joey's notes for details.

31 May Doug pointed out something that explains a lot here: apparently these birds have taken over the dead granary over at FAAR. This explains why Jen thought KOUT had taken over FAAR, when in fact both groups are still intact. It also means that these guys have lots of stores!

12 June 1330. Bled & weighed the 4 kids, just in case (#3727-3730)

17 June 1300 Banded the 4 kids.

2003 Walter D Koenig

Melanerpes formicivorus

Keep Out HNHR

10 May 1000. Bird in the hole just up from the turnaround (i.e., in Keep Out area, not over at Fanny Arnold). Checked it: 4 eggs, a couple days incubated. However, the odd thing was that 3 of them (at least) had small punctures in the shell, and will surely not develop. (Looks like a good candidate for a transplant from the experimental LODO eggs). They are: ① 24.8 × 19.8 ② 26.8 × 19.6 ③ 24.9 × 19.2, and ④ 25.3 × 18.7. 1, 2, & 4 had punctures; 3 may have also but I didn't notice one.

4 June 1330. Banded the 1 kid here.

10 June 1630. Walking by the tree down near the road just down from the nest tree (see back) I flushed a bird from a hole, which I opened to find 2 incubated (almost hatching, if they're going to hatch) eggs! (① 24.1 × 18.7 ② 25.0 × 19.7). This may not be Keep Out - perhaps it Arnold 1? Hard to tell. It's in the same tree that Big Tree nested in a few times long ago.

A1

11 June Michelle watched the nest, which is A1's.

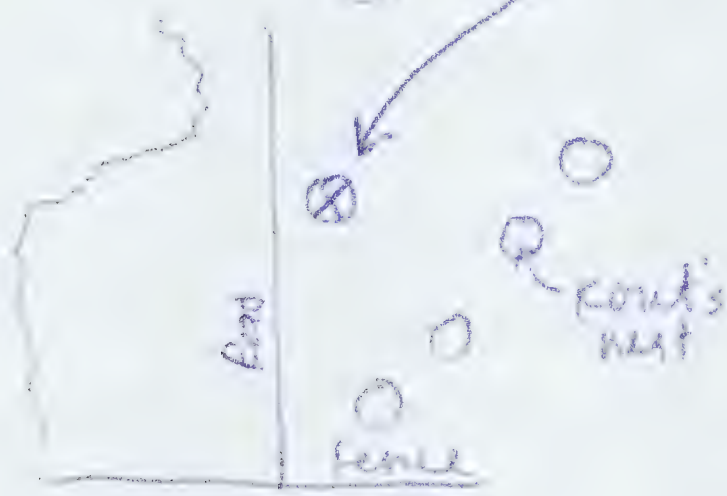
10 July 1130. Bird in nest hole. Checked it: 4 eggs, partly incubated! Heavens! ① 24.8 × 19.4 ② 24.0 × 19.3 ③ 24.6 × 19.5 ④ 24.0 × 18.9.

15 July 1900. Still 4 eggs, warm and incubated!

10 June 2003

Tree w/ 2 in effect

(A1)



2004 Walter D Koenig

Melanerpes formicivorus

Keep Out HNHR

7 April 1615. Bird in (last year's) nest hole (3rd tree up from turnaround on HNHR side). Checked it: in good shape but empty.

29 April 1100. Bird in hole again: 5 fresh eggs. (EHD 10 May) Measured them: ① 25.3 × 19.9 ② 25.3 × 19.3 ③ 25.2 × 19.5 ④ 25.7 × 20.3 ⑤ 25.0 × 20.2.

13 May 930. 2 babies, ~3 do, + 2 unhatched (but developed) eggs. Presumably 3 eggs hatched. Band ~31 May.

27 May 1100. Caught & bled 72602 for stable isotopes, then banded the 2 kids.

There are acorns still here, down in the 1st tree on our side.

10 August 900. No stores here (or over at FAAR).

2 Sept Nest in (usual) hole: 1 kid, ~15 do (Wing chord 44 mm).

28 Sept. 1100. Nabbed a ♀ helper (73962) as feeding at the nest after which we bled her and banded the kid (for SI analysis)

2000 Walter D Koenig
2002

Melanerpes formicivorus

Arnold Swartz HNHR

11 May 930. Several birds up here - a touch of power struggle activity or at least some high-level activity. But noone in any holes, and no stores left, best I can tell.

23 May Nothing - neither birds nor stores. Is there even a group still here?

2002

12 March Several birds up here (flying off toward Lambert) but no stores appear to be left in the granary. The granary has been being used, though.

2000
2001

Walter D Koenig

Melanerpes formicivorus

Lambert HNHR

11 May A few stores left here, but noone in any holes.

27 June Stores gone. Still never any sign of a nest up here.

2001

5 April 845. Power struggle activity up here. Maybe they're going to finally replace the breeder ♂?

10 April Big power struggle up here today.

18 April All quiet at 1425.

27 April 1100. Still some activity up here.

1 May 1115. Still some chasing and other light PS activity up here.

11 May 1030. Bird in new hole in traditional tree: 1 egg, marked & measured (27.6 × 21.0). Hole tagged #1315.

15 May 830. Now 5 eggs, one a runt, but the 1st egg measured on 11 May was not among them so tossing and 2 ♀♀ must be involved. The measurements of the new 5 are: ① 30.3 × 21.0 (a record?) ② 28.6 × 21.0 ③ 26.8 × 20.9 ④ 26.6 × 20.1 ⑤ 21.0 × 16.8 (the runt)

EHD: 26 May.

31 May 1615. 4 babies a good 6 days old; no eggs. Band ~6/15.

7 June 900. Ambush set. Got a ♀!

930. Set for bird #2.

945. Got a ♂! That's all for today.

8 June 930. Set for #3. Definitely a 2nd ♂ NOBA here.

2001 Walter D Koenig
2002

Melanerpes formicivorus

Lambert HNHR

9 June 735. Trying again, but I only have an hour and the ball just messed up and fell yet again!
840. Got a (2nd) ♂!

10 June 715. Back for one more shot.
745. Got a (3rd) ♂!
900. All 3 other banded birds have fed. No sign of a 2nd ♀ yet, although she almost has to be here
1000. Got a (4th) ♂! Plus, there is definitely a 2nd ♀ here (at least!). Leaving for now.

11 June 915. Back for one more.
1000 Wouldn't you know: yet one more (the 5th!) ♂. Clearly some helpers here; whenever those guys came from they bred last year.
Birds feeding include ① ♀ M/LB ② ♂ Red/M
③ ♂ Wh-Blk/Red ④ ♂ Yel/DB Wh(W)
⑤ ♂ Wh-Blk/Red (Bld)
That's all banded up to now!
1200. Finally got a 2nd ♀! That's all; I actually suspect a 3rd ♀ here (at least), but this is as good as I'm going to do for now.

16 June 1600. Banded the 4 kids.

2002

12 March No stores here. Maybe these guys have taken over the Swartz tree? (Which looks nice, although there really isn't much there at the moment either.)

2002 Walter D Koenig
2003

Melanerpes formicivorus

Lambert HNHR

12 April 1045. No stores left, best I can tell. Pretty quiet up here.

25 April 1220. Doug had reported a bird in the 2001 hole, so I checked it: in good shape but empty.

3 May 1205. Opened last year's hole again; still empty.

22 May 1030. And it's still empty.

17 August Presumably was a group here this spring (Joey saw 3 birds on 16 July) but we've failed at getting much of a fix on them since early spring. No nest and no stores, at the most!

2003

19 April 1130. bird in hole (tag 1315): 1 fresh egg, marked (25.7 × 21.1). Stores here: yes.

21 April 1310. Check hole: still the 1 egg (!)

26 April 1225. Still the 1 egg – and it's developed! They're apparently incubating it! Wow. A real 1-egg clutch!

10 May 945. Hole empty. Yet another weather casualty, I dare say, directly or indirectly.

20 May 1215 Bird in (same) hole: 1 egg, not so fresh that I'd swear they're going to lay more. Size: 25.4 × 22.0 (as close to a ball as any I've seen!) Another 1 egg clutch!?

30 May 915. 1 baby, ~2-3 do. Band ~17 June. Another set up in case there are NOBAs.

10 June 1600. Hole empty! There are definitely still stores here, by the way.

18 June 1630. Bird in new hole, in lobata on Bradley's

2003
2004

Walter D Young

Melanerpes formicivorus

Lambert — HNHR

(18 June) side of the fence (could be a different group altogether, but I'm guessing these guys) 2 eggs, well incubated. Hole tagged 5815.

25 June 945. Checked the nest, which is Lambert. 1 kid, ~3 to, + 1 unhatched but developed egg. Band ~ 13 July.

30 June 1200. Cut in hold a bit messed up; fixed it. Kid sounds fine.

9 July 1400. Banded the 1 kid. By the way, he's the only kid I've ever noted whose 2nd and 1st primaries are not at all reduced!

Stored acorns: Yes.

2004

20 April 1115. No stores here; doesn't look like this is going to be a happening place this spring.

6 May Starling nest in last year's nest hole (~~no~~ tag #5815); cleaned out. No one anywhere else.

This is in the successful nest hole, down on Bradley's across from the pond.

13 May Starling building a nest in the other nest hole (tag #1315). Cleared out.

2000
2001

Walter D Koenig

Melanerpes formicivorus

Fanny Arnold — HNHR

13 April — 1000. Opened the (new) hole in the VO that they're interested in here, but it's empty.
A few acorns still stored here, but not many.
Correction! The snag (where they nested last year) still has lots of acorns in it.

16 May — 1430. 4 kids, 3-4 do. Band ~ 2 June.

1 June — Banded the 4 kids. Plenty of stores left.

27 June — Still plenty of stores, mainly in the snag.

20 July — Still stores.

1 September — Out of stores. Noone in a hole. Nonetheless, there were several birds upset at my visit and I wouldn't be surprised if something were afoot.

2001

27 April — 1030. Bird in hole (tag #1146): 5 eggs, fresh.
① 25.7 × 19.5 ② 24.8 × 19.2 ③ 24.6 × 19.0
④ 25.7 × 19.5 ⑤ 21.4 × 16.4 (a runt?)
Yes — 2 the same size!
EHD ~ 7 May.

1 May — 1100. Still 5 eggs. 2/2 (not including the runt) are developing.

11 May — 1100. 3 babies, 3-4 do + 1 (normal) unhatched egg. Band ~ 5/28.

24 May — 1215. Nest completely empty!

26 July — Nelli watched some NOBA fledglings here, so we probably did miss a 2nd nest. Am going to try and ambush them.

27 July — 515. The ambush nabbed 2 fledglings (3620 + 3621), ♂1699, and one other Ad ♂ not on the field list. So! There was a

2001
2002

Walter D Koenig

Melanerpes formicivorus

Fanny Arnold — HNHR

(27 July) nest here, apparently in my face (did they never look out of the hole? I checked the tree bunches of times), which fledged 2 kids that have survived to now.

Checked hole 30 (tag 294): door a bit loose, but empty and in OK shape.

2002

5/31/02 Prob. KOUT! See KOUT notes.

12 March — lots of stores here. Doing great.

12 April — Still lots of stores, but noone in any holes.

19 April — 1330. Bird in hole; traditional tree, but an old hole not used for some time.

22 April — 520. Power struggle activity here! Perhaps 15 birds involved at the moment. Pretty exciting!

25 April — 1245. Checked the (old) hole they've been hanging out in and the hole they've used the last couple years (tag 1147): both empty but in good shape.

8 May — 1145 Bird in one of the old holes (the one below the other old hole they had been in earlier): 5 fresh eggs (1 a runt?). Measured them (calipers checked) ① 24.3 × 20.0 ② 23.3 × 19.3 ③ 24.0 × 19.5 ④ 23.6 × 19.7 ⑤ 19.2 × 15.0.
EHD ~ 18 May

22 May — 1010. 3 babies + 4 to (1 runty). Band ~ 8 June.

28 May — 950. Bird in old hole in granary (which is loaded with acorns); nice shape but empty (tag #294).

5 June — Banded the 2 kids here. A few acorns left, even in the nest tree. (Lots in the snag, but it belongs to KOUT(?))

2002 Walter D Koenig

Melanerpes formicivorus

Fanny Arnold 2 HNHR

2 May 900. I got a bit lost walking to FAAR from Lambert and stumbled across a nice snag granary with acorns along with a nice potential nest hole in a nearby Valley Oak That's just over the fence and not more than 100m from FAAR. I can't believe I never noticed or ran across this group before! I'll dub it Fanny Arnold 2 (FA2); with luck we can get everyone when they nest.

This is not a new group - They've clearly been here for some time.

2000
2001
2002

Walter D Koenig

Melanerpes formicivorus

UA2 | UA2B

HNHR

23 May 1215. Checked the old underhanging hole, but it's empty. Stores here, though.

1 June Still zilch.

27 June Still a fair number of stores here.

20 July Still some stores.

1 September Still stores.

UA2B, presumably,

2001

11 May 1115. Finally! Bird flew from S-facing hole in the lower Valley Oak: 3 babies ~ 2 do + 1 unhatched egg (25.0 × 18.0mm).

24 May 1200. Birds around the old hole and the nest completely empty!

6 June 1100. Bird in (same) hole: 5 fresh eggs. EHD: 6/16

19 June 1400. 3 babies 5-6 do + 1 unhatched (but developed) egg. Band ~ 7/4.

29 June 2 groups here! The 2nd (in the traditional hole all of 100' away!) are 2 kids about the same age as these. The ♂/? helpers apparently split and each got a NOBA mate!

2002

12 March There are stores here, both in the UA2 tree and the dead tree next door. Whether both groups remain here remains to be seen, I suppose.

12 April Still stores, but noone in a hole.

20 April Bird in the UA2B hole

2 May 1020. Noone in hole (UA2B hole) but 4 eggs, inc. ① 23.3×18.5 ② 24.2×18.2 ③ 23.2×18.1 ④ [Broken] 23.1×18.5

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2003
2004

Melanerpes formicivorus

UAZ HNHR

(2 May) The broken egg (#4) had a hole in it and was empty, but could still be measured. (Calipers checked.) EHD ~ 6 May.

8 May 1130. Checked hole: empty! Nest failed.

22 May 945 Checked hole: 5 eggs, incubated! See Joe's notes for details.

28 May 1000. Checked nest, 3 babies (-1 do, 1 runty one just hatched recently) + 1 normal unhatched egg + the runt egg (also unhatched). Band ~ 17 June.

17 June 1230. Banded the 3 kids, #3732-3734.

30 August No stores left here.

2003

12 April Bird in hole (same hole as last year) Stores: Yes

17 April 1500. Opened the hole: 1 egg; abandoned? Measured it just in case: 23.1 x 19.0.

30 April 1630. Checked the hole: 5 eggs, incubated. ① Same as #1 above ② 24.0 x 19.0 ③ 24.1 x 18.7 ④ 24.3 x 18.8 ⑤ 24.8 x 18.2 I imagine they should hatch soon! EHD ~ 21 April.

12 May 1045. 3 babies, ~7-8 do. Band ~ 23 May.

20 May 1200. Banded & bled the 2 kids here. Stores: Yes

2004

20 April Plenty of stores; noone in any holes.

6 May 1530. Bird in (usual untagged) hole: 5 eggs incubated. ① 28.2 x 18.7 ② 26.2 x 19.2 ③ 26.0 x 19.2 ④ 25.4 x 19.6 ⑤ 25.4 x 19.0. EHD ~ 11 May.

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Melanerpes formicivorus

UAZ HNNP

13 May 1000. Checked nest: 4 babies, 1 dead, + 1 unhatched egg that looked like it still could hatch
Band ~ 2 June.

2 June 1030. Banded the 5 kids!

10 August No stores left here, best I can tell.

2000
2001

Walter D Koenig

Melanerpes formicivorus

LAZ

HNHR

13 April 1130. Checked hole (#279), where Joey saw a bird yesterday: empty but in good shape

21 April 1330. Checked hole: 4 eggs, 2-3 days inc. EHD: 29 Apr. Measured one: 25.3 x 19.7mm. Still stores here.

23 May Banded & bled the 4 kids. Stores: Yes. Fair number.

27 June Still a fair number of stores.

20 July Still quite a few stores.

1 Sept. Out of stores. Noone in any holes, either.

2001

10 April 1515. Bird flew from middle (?) hole. Checked it: empty.

18 April 1530. Well, I was wrong: it was the (unopened) uppermost hole! They have small babies already.

19 April 1500. Opened the new hole (tag #1310): 4 babies, ~6 do. Band ~ 4 May.

3 May 1530. Banded + bled the 4 kids (#3367-3370).

6 June 1100. Checked the hole just for kicks: 1 fresh egg! Marked #1. Also checked the 1998 hole (#279): empty but in good shape.

7 June 830. 2 eggs. They are (in order of laying): ① 25.5 x 19.4 and ② (today's egg): 25.5 x 20.0

8 June 915. Today's egg #3 is 24.8 x 19.6

9 June 715. still 3 eggs. Last egg today?

2001
2002

Walter D Koenig

Melanerpes formicivorus

LAZ HNHR

10 June First off, Joey checked the hole yesterday afternoon and found only 3 eggs still.
1030. Today, the 4th showed up: ④ 25.9 × 19.7. All 4 are marked. So this one was laid this morning for sure.

11 June 1015. Still 4 eggs. Presumably done laying.

13 June 1630. Peeped the hole: 4 eggs.

2002

12 March Lots of stores left.

12 April Still lots of stores.

19 April 1340. Bird in the uppermost of the 3 holes.

22 April 830. Noone in the hole, but I checked it anyway: 5 freshish eggs (EHD 4/30). Measured them: ① 25.3 × 19.2 ② 25.1 × 20.0 ③ 25.5 × 20.0 ④ 24.8 × 19.5, and ⑤ 23.4 × 18.7.

2 May 1030. Checked nest: 3 babies 1-2 do + 2 unhatched eggs ① 24.1 × 19.2 (this was marked #1!) and ② 24.0 × 19.8. I think I really have to throw out egg measurements from this year that I took in April; clearly I wasn't zeroing the calipers or something every time.
Band ~ 21 May.

8 May 1115. 3 babies + 1 unhatched egg.

22 May 1045. Banded the 3 babies (3683-3685) Lots of stores left.

30 August Lots of stores still!

2003 Walter D Koenig
2004

Melanerpes formicivorus

LAZ HNHR

6 March 1230. A fair chunk of the nest tree here has fallen, including (at least) the 2 upper holes (lowest of the 3 still ok) plus ~~[illegible]~~ one other large branch. Lots of acorns still stored here

17 April 1630 Opened the lowest of the old holes (the only one remaining in the old limb); empty. Meanwhile, they are apparently in a new hole over in the big valley oak with the nest box. A project for the next nice day!

19 April 1230. Opened the new hole in the Nestbox tree (now tagged #5552). Seven, incubated. ① 25.1 × 19.8 ② 24.7 × 19.9 ③ 24.7 × 20.0 ④ 26.2 × 19.5 ⑤ 24.3 × 19.3. (egg #5 not developing).

Note: there's no breeder ♂ on the list here!?

30 April 1615. 4 babies, ~8 oo; no eggs. Band ~ 13 May.

13 May 1000. 4 kids, but somehow one (the largest) got squished (I guess) and died in the bag (!) Bummer. So we banded the other 3 and bled all 4. Acorns remaining: yes.

25 June 1100. Bird in new hole near nest hole; opened it — still working on it. Nest hole checked also; empty.

2004

6 April 1530. Birds (4?) in 2003 hole: empty, but a lot deeper and in good shape.

20 April 1210. Checked hole: still empty. Birds interested though. Plenty of stores here.

18 May 1345. Finally! 4 eggs, ~3 days inc? ① 24.8 × 18.9 ② 24.0 × 17.6 ③ 24.8 × 18.9 ④ 23.5 × 18.6

(18 May) Hard to tell about the eggs; they weren't fresh, but they may not be developing either.

2002 Walter D Koenig

Melanerpes formicivorus

Bianca North HNHR

12 Apr] A new group here, found by Doug, up between Bianca and Black Oak, north of Bianca Negra. They even have stores acorns in what is a new granary – the old VO nest tree of Bianca's on the N side of the ravine!

19 Apr] 1340. Bird in hole, just below the old Bianca nest hole.

22 Apr] 1000. Opened the new hole: 4 fresh eggs. Unfortunately, a piece of wood fell and broke one of them when I opened it, so only 3 are left. Nonetheless, this is a potential experimental nest.

Hole tagged #5559.

23 Apr] 1920 Watched roosting here tonight, but best I could tell, the bird who was in there, who I believe was a ♂, never left after I arrived. Plus, noone else came!

24 Apr] 1920. I couldn't scare the bird out of the nest hole, so I watched the new hole on the other limb where 3 birds roosted: 1 I missed, but there was definitely a ♂NOBA (a kid from last year?) plus ♂DB-WRM #3213. So all I can really say is that ♂3213 did not roost in the nest. Perhaps an ambush would be in order?

♂3213 did not roost in the nest

26 Apr] 600. Ambushed the (non-nest) hole, getting (just) the ♂NOBA now #3651. Also took the (3) eggs. Measured ① 24.5 × 20.1 ② 25.3 × 21.4 ③ 25.5 × 21.7

2 May Noone in a hole.

2002 Walter D Koenig
2003

Melanerpes formicivorus

Bianca North HWHR

8 May 1000. Bird in (other) hole, just as predicted.
1245. Checked both holes, just to be sure: They're both empty.

12 June Still stores, but noone in either of the holes.

2003

10 April Lots of stores. Noone in a hole.
17 April 1700. Opened the old hole, but empty.
26 April 1315. Bird in hole again: still empty.
30 April 1600. Noone in either hole
10 May 1115. Bird in the other hole (the one they didn't use last time): 6 eggs, fairly fresh. 2 were broken (possibly, but not definitely, by ~~bats~~ wood chips I made getting the hole so I could reach down to the bottom) and were thrown out (those were not tiny punctures, but major cracks).
① 25.0 × 19.0 ② 25.7 × 18.8 ③ 25.9 × 19.0
④ 26.2 × 18.9 ⑤ 25.1 × 18.4 (thrown out) ⑥ 26.6 × 18.5 (thrown out)
Still 4 good eggs left.

20 May 1100. 3 hatchlings + 1 egg, partly hatched. Band ~ 10 June. Ambrosher set.

1 June 1410. Going after the 1st of the 3 NOBAs here.
1505. Got 1 of the ♀♀. All for today.

3 June 1045. Got the NOBA ♂. (After a disaster yesterday when I missed the 2nd ♀ twice)
1100. Going for the 2nd ♀ again.
1310 Finally got her. Along with 83069 (collateral damage).

2003 Walter D Koenig
2004

Melanerpes formicivorus

Bianca North. HNHR

(3 June) Lots of stores here, by the way. While watching I saw ♂3213, the other ♀, and the ♂ I caught earlier, no sign of ♂3071, ♂3515, or ♂3651.

4 June 1100. Banded + bled the 4 kids.

2004

20 April Lots of stores here.

6 May 1430. Bird in old hole (tag 5559): 5 fresh eggs. ① 24.8 × 18.2 ② 25.0 × 18.7 ③ 24.3 × 19.5 ④ 25.9 × 19.2 ⑤ 28.3 × 19.9. EHD ~ 14 May.

13 May 1100. Blocked second entrance & set up ambushes. Still 5 eggs here.

18 May 1400. 3 babies, 2-3 do, + 2 unhatched & undeveloped eggs. Band ~ 5 June.

29 May 1340. Set up to get the NOBA ♀. Watching.
1440. Finally ① ♀ or/DP #3876.
1505. Got her! ♀5524, now #3986.
1600. Pulled 2 acorns out of the granary for a sample. Also banded the 2 kids!

10 August 850. No stores remaining here, best I can tell.

21 Aug. Some new stores here.

2000
2001
2002

Walter D Koenig

Melanerpes formicivorus

Bianca — HNHR

13 April — 1130. Opened new hole below last year's: empty + a bit odd. Upper hole could have something in it - didn't check for sure. Fair number of stores left here.

5 May — 1100. Bird in new hole in the old Valley Oak! Opened it (tag #1146). 3 eggs. 1 with a small dent that's not developing; others incubated. (EHD 9 May). ① 27.5 × 18.8 (w/dent) ② 29.0 × 18.6.

1 June — Banded + bled the 2 kids here. Stores: Yes.

27 June — I'd say they're pretty well out of stores by now.

2001

18 April — 1530 Bird in hole (tag #1146)
1615. 4 eggs, incubated. ① 28.2 × 18.7

27 April — 1000. 4 babies, ~5 do. Band ~ 15 May.

11 May — 1230. Banded the 4 kids (3390-3393).

8 June — Bird in old nest hole on other side of canyon up a bit toward LA2.

13 June — 1615. Checked the old hole: empty but in nice shape.

19 June — 1300. Bird (adult) in 1st nest hole.
1415. Checked hole: 3 babies + 1 egg that died while hatching (it measured 27.3 × 19.2)! ~~Band~~ Babies ~2 do; band ~ 7/7.

2002

12 March — Lots of stores left.

12 April — Still stores; none in a hole, though.

17 May — 1100. Doug found a bird in last year's hole so I checked it: 4 fresh eggs. Measurements

2002 Walter D Koenig
2003

Melanerpes formicivorus

Branca HMR

(17 May) ① 26.0 × 19.3 ② 26.5 × 18.9 ③ 27.1 × 18.3 and ④ 26.5 × 19.2. (Calipers checked.) Could be a final experimental group.

21 May 1945. I scared a bird out of the hole when I arrived, but despite plenty of time for someone to return and roost, noone ever did as best I could tell. It would seem as though I may as well collect the eggs!

22 May 1130. Eggs warm; collected them for the last (6th) experimental removal of the year.

12 June Still stores (up in the VO over toward LA2).

30 August Pretty much out of stores.

2003

12 March Lots of acorns here, up in the VO on the knoll over toward LA2.

17 April 1645. Opened the new hole in the granary on the knoll: 4 fresh eggs. A potential experimental group.

21 April 1330. Took the 4 eggs (exp #5). Measurements: ① 26.1 × 18.4 ② 28.9 × 18.4 ③ 26.1 × 18.2 ④ 27.8 × 18.2

10 May 1145. Checked the old nest hole (tag #1146): empty.

13 May 1100. Turns out it's a new hole in that tree, out on the one remaining live limb, now tagged #5802. 4 eggs, incubated. ① 28.0 × 18.2 ② 26.6 × 18.2 ③ 26.4 × 18.5 ④ 26.9 × 19.0

4 June 1500. Banded & fled the 4 kids. Lots of stores.

30 June 1215. First nest hole empty

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Melanerpes formicivorus

Bianca | HNHR

20 April | Lots of stores here, but noone in any holes.

13 May | 1100 I hear babies! In the snag granary.
1135. 4 kids, ~12 do! Band ~22 May.

18 May | All set up for ambushing here

19 May | 1040 Ready to go. Watching.
1120. ♀ Or-Da/Or T Or/M #3884. fed.
1140. Got a ♂ M/ . Bled & (re)banded.
Presumably ♂2490. Bled for ~~D. Deptop~~ Stable Isotope analysis (SI).
1150. Going for that 2nd ♂ who's lost most of his bands.
1300. ♂ M/Yel/Or #2523 here. ♀ Yel/M #2736 fed.
1310. Got him! Slipped out a 2nd entrance!
1330. Banded the kids! Took blood for stable isotope analysis.

20 May | 1405. Set up to try for ♂2523.
1511 ♀ Yel/M #2736. ♂2490.
1520. Got him!

10 August | Still a few acorns remaining here.

2001
2002
2003

Walter D Koenig

Melanerpes formicivorus

Biana Negra

HNHR

18 April — See Phobo for notes on this new group, nesting and storing in the Big Black Oak that Phobo originally nested in between Phobo and Biana.

1 May — 930. Banded and bled the 3 kids.

8 June — 900. Checked the 2nd nest (in same hole): 3 babies, probably only 1 do, + 2 unhatched but developed eggs. Measurements: ① 25.8 × 19.0 and ② 26.0 × 18.6. Acorns in this tree also! Band ~ 27 June.

26 June — 1530. Banded the 2 kids.

2002

12 March — Pretty much out of stores here.

12 April — 1015. Heard birds, but noone in the hole. Still no acorns, but Doug's been putting some out on the feeding tray; there are still 30 or so there at the moment.

2 May — Still very quiet over here.

2003

12 March — Still stores here. Bird flushed from area.

10 April — Still stores. Noone in a hole, though.

26 April — 1320. Bird flushed from new hole in same tree!

30 April — 1600. Noone in any holes this time.

10 May — 1330. Bird in that new hole again: opened it: 3 kids, ~20 days old! Come back up and band them soon!

13 May — 1230. Banded & bled the 3 kids. Acorns: Yes! Tagged the hole: #5803.